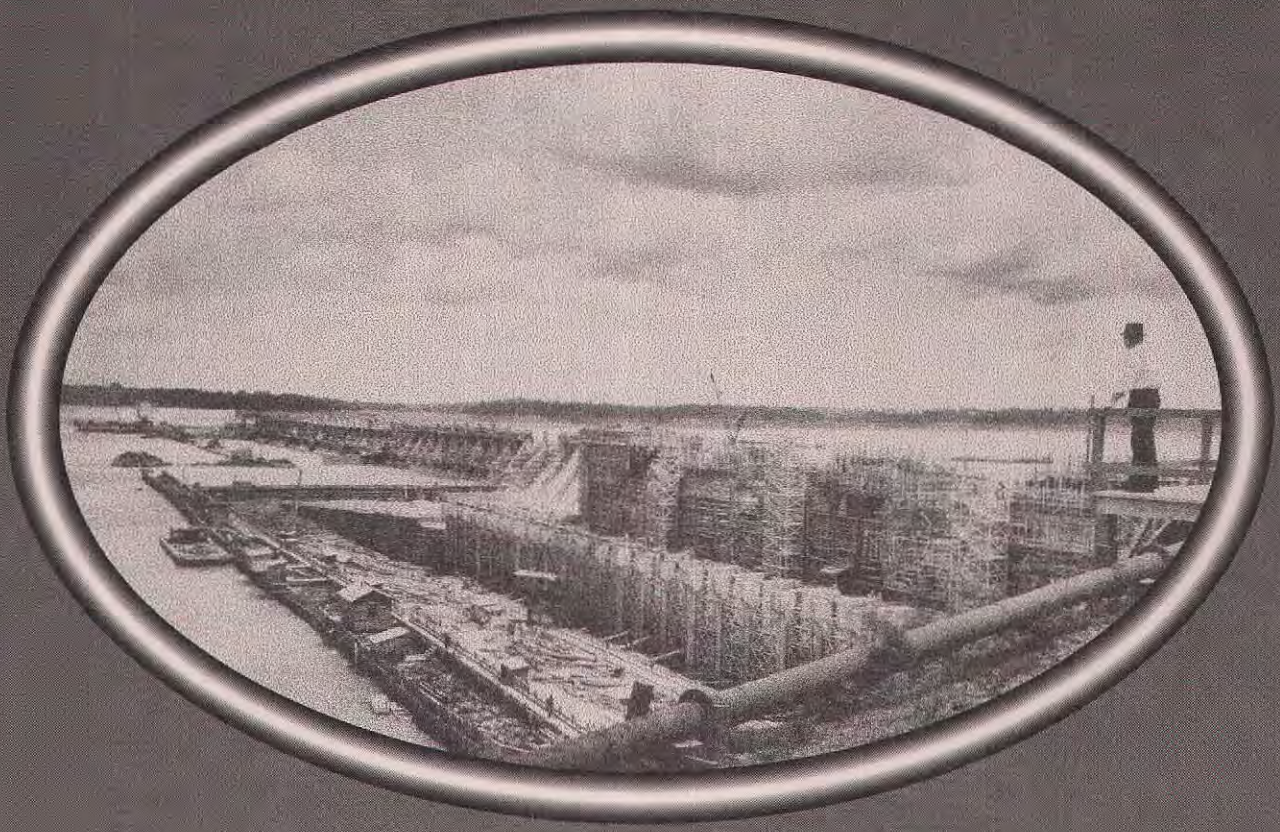
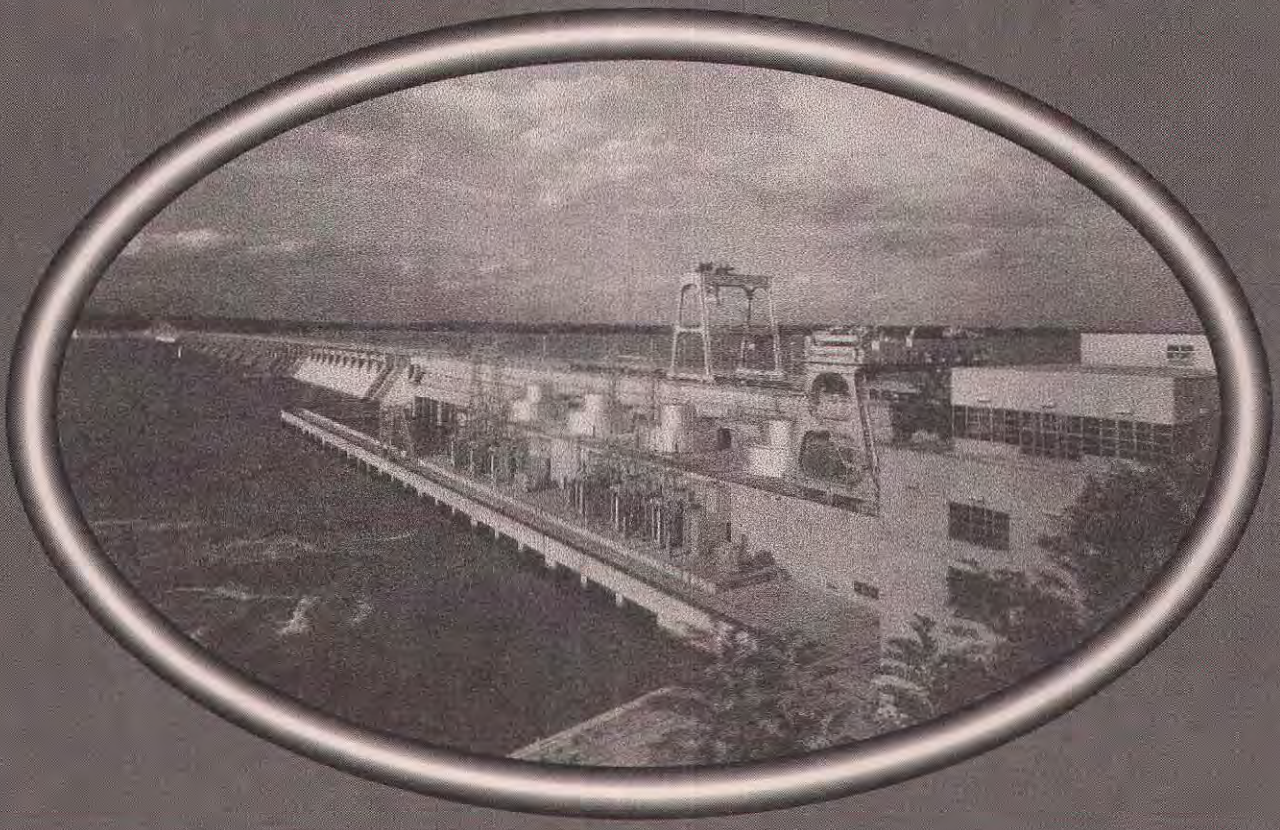


WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN



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Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan

Prepared by

Tennessee Valley Authority
Resource Group - Land Management

Wheeler Planning Team

Spencer D. Boardman
Robert E. Buchanan
Terry S. Chilcoat
Stanford E. Davis
Patricia B. Ezzell
Joe C. Feeman, Jr.
Danny R. Johnson

Word Processing by
Connie J. Hill

Graphic Design by
Garry W. Pyle

December 1995

Plan Cover: Top Photograph - Construction of Wheeler Dam, April 1935
Lower Photograph - Wheeler Dam, September 1941

USER'S GUIDE

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

How can this User's Guide help you locate specific concerns or interests relating to Wheeler Reservoir?

The plan can be divided into seven broad areas:

1. **Description of the Reservoir Area**
2. **The Planning Process**
3. **Reservoir Existing Conditions and Regional Trends**
4. **Planning Issues, Goals and Objectives**
5. **Planned Land Uses**
6. **Reservoir Tract Descriptions with Maps.**
7. **Plan Glossary**

The **Description of the Reservoir Area** simply provides an overview of the Wheeler Reservoir area. For example, if you wanted a historical background of the region, you would look in this section, pp. 5-34.

The **Planning Process** describes in detail the steps that TVA went through to allocate the uses for the lands included in this document. If you want to know about this process, please turn to pp. 35-38.

The section devoted to **Reservoir Existing Conditions and Regional Trends** discusses what the reservoir area was like when work began on the plan (1991-92) and identifies trends that might indicate future conditions. If, for instance, you are interested in the types of endangered species or the number of industries that were located within the reservoir area when the planning process began, please turn to pp. 39-92.

The section entitled **Planning Issues, Goals, and Objectives** discusses what the planning team hoped to accomplish with this land use plan. Many of the issues were recorded from citizens who had genuine concerns for the reservoir and related resources. If you are curious as to what these issues, goals and objectives were, please refer to pp. 93-126.

Planned Land Uses explains the various categories for which the TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir could be allocated. There are 21 specific land uses listed. To review these land uses and their definition, please refer to pp. 127-132.

The **Plan Maps** and **Reservoir Tract Descriptions** are the sections which most people are interested. Each TVA plan tract is assigned a number and the maps (1 through 7) are located under separate cover (see Plan Land Maps). On each map sheet a matrix diagram or map key shows the land use allocations for each tract. The tract descriptions (pp. 133-244) include the land use allocations as well as a detailed word picture about each tract.

To determine how a piece of land is allocated, go to maps 1-7 located in the accompanying report called ***Plan Land Maps***. Look at the map and find the number of the tract in which you are interested. Then look at the allocated use matrix diagram on the map. Find the tract number and follow the line from that number horizontally. The black dots will tell you what land uses have been determined for that tract of land. Then, if you wish to learn more about the tract, turn to the tract description section (pp. 133-244) and locate the description for the same tract (descriptions are in numerical order). There will be detailed information about the tract and about the land uses deemed appropriate for the tract. For example, say you are interested in an area close to the dam. You look at map 1 of 7 and see that this area is labeled as tract number 4. On the same map, refer to the diagram of allocated land uses. Find number 4 and move horizontally: you will see black dots under the allocated land uses of navigation safety harbor/landing, public recreation, and cultural resource protection. For a complete description of this piece of land, you can then turn to pp. 135 of the plan.

If you are not sure about the meaning of a word or phrase used in this document, refer to the **Glossary** on pp. 245.

For specific information about this document, please refer to the Table of Contents.

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WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

Introduction

In 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt requested legislation to create a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). He suggested to Congress that TVA be "charged with the broadest duty of planning for the proper use, conservation, and development of the natural resources of the Tennessee River drainage basin and its adjoining territory for the general, social, and economic welfare of the Nation."[1]

In summary, the TVA Act directs TVA to improve navigation and provide flood control of the Tennessee River; to provide for reforestation of marginal lands in the Tennessee Valley; to provide for agriculture and industrial development; and to provide for the production of electric power in the interest of national defense and for the unified development of the Tennessee River system. This responsibility led to a massive dam and reservoir construction program that required the purchase of vast acres of public land. Over one million acres (404,700 hectare [ha]) of land have been acquired for 34 reservoirs throughout the seven-state Valley region. Approximately 600,000 acres (242,820 ha) of this land lie above the summer pool elevation of the TVA reservoir system. However, TVA's land base Valleywide has been depleted over the years to less than 250,000 acres (101,175 ha). It is now more important than ever for TVA to make prudent resource management decisions, following a logical planning process.

Development and management of TVA reservoir land can affect reservoir water quality and supply, which in turn can limit land uses or management activities. Recognizing this relationship between land and water, TVA develops both land management plans and water quality assessments for its reservoirs. Together these reports focus on the issues and objectives to help establish TVA's strategy for managing both the land and water resources within the rivers and lakes of the Tennessee Valley. In 1990 TVA's Water Quality staff completed the ***Wheeler Watershed Region: Issues Analyses*** report. To further study Wheeler's water quality, a field model and assessment data collection effort was initiated for the lake in 1991. The interpretation and analysis of these data have been documented in the ***Two-Dimensional Water Quality Modeling of Wheeler Reservoir*** report dated June 1993.

Throughout its history, TVA has managed the public reservoir lands under its stewardship to meet a wide range of regional and local resource development needs and to improve the quality of life, both within specific reservoir areas and throughout the Tennessee Valley. Reservoir properties, together with adjoining private lands, have been used for public parks, industrial development, commercial recreation, tourism development, forest and wildlife management areas, and to meet a variety of other needs associated with local communities.

An increasing demand for and use of reservoir land sometimes results in conflicting and uneconomical land use patterns and friction between public and private use. These competing interests and development pressures, coupled with today's environmental awareness, underscore the necessity for a planned approach to the management of TVA's reservoir land and related resources. TVA uses the reservoir lands planning process as the mechanism for evaluating and identifying the most suitable use of TVA land.

[1]TVA Handbook, page 247, 1987 edition.

Land management plans have already been completed and approved by the TVA Board of Directors for six mainstream reservoirs (Pickwick, approved in 1981; Guntersville, approved in 1983; Kentucky, approved in 1985; Watts Bar, approved in 1988; Chickamauga, approved in 1989; and Nickajack, approved in 1990). The remaining two of nine mainstream reservoirs (Wilson and Fort Loudoun) will be evaluated by using a less comprehensive method. Unlike the other seven, TVA owns very little public land around these two reservoirs. In most cases, on Wilson and Fort Loudoun Reservoirs, TVA only purchased flowage easements or the right to flood shoreline up to a specific elevation.

The reservoir lands planning process is based on active participation by various TVA staffs, other government agencies, nongovernment organizations, and the general public. Comments from these groups are used to identify regional and local land management needs and to develop reservoir-specific objectives for realizing TVA's reservoir land management goals, which include:

- Protecting the visual and environmental quality of reservoirs and adjoining lands;
- Providing a diversity of quality recreation opportunities on TVA reservoirs and adjoining land;
- Planning for and promoting responsible economic development and growth;
- Protecting and enhancing the forestry, fisheries, and wildlife resources, as well as preserving the cultural and agricultural resources around the reservoir area for future generations.

Specific objectives or steps for reaching these goals are developed from the advice and technical expertise of TVA staff and from public input about local values and priorities related to land use. Because the public's interests and the available resource base are different on each reservoir, the management objectives must be tailored to fit the specific reservoir. The "Planning Issues, Goals, and Objectives" section of this plan contains a detailed discussion of these objectives for Wheeler Reservoir.

This plan will guide TVA resource management and property administration decisions on 11,284 acres (4,567 ha) of land around Wheeler Reservoir that are under TVA stewardship and control. It identifies the most suitable uses for 203 tracts of TVA public land, providing sites for recreation, industry, navigation, wildlife and forest management, cultural and environmental preservation, and agriculture.

The planned acreage is TVA-retained (fee-owned) land and accounts for 335 miles (31 percent [530 kilometers]) of the total 1,063 miles (1,710 kilometers [km]) of reservoir shoreline. The remaining 69 percent of shoreline NOT ADDRESSED in the plan falls into the following two categories:

1. 509 miles (48 percent [819 km]) - Shoreline fronting land formerly owned by TVA that has been sold or transferred for commercial, industrial, or public recreation purposes, or that has been transferred to other government agencies for uses other than public recreation, or that has been committed by TVA for dam reservations or power plants.

2. 219 miles (21 percent [352 km]) - Shoreline fronting former TVA reservoir land commonly referred to as "marginal strip" that was sold for private development purposes with deeded rights to construct private shoreline improvements (boat docks, ramps, seawalls, etc); this category also includes TVA-retained rights on sold land and the acquired rights to flood private land that was never owned by TVA.

The terms "marginal strip" and "acquired rights to flood" (flowage easements) are further defined in the Plan Glossary (see Contents).

In relation to TVA property administration, the plan provides information that allows a faster response to requests for the use of TVA land. All requests for changes to the land management plan or requests for use of TVA land are subject to TVA review through the reservoir land use review process. When requests are received, TVA staff compares the request with the use allocated in the plan. If the request is not congruent with the reservoir plan, the plan will be used to identify alternative tracts that are more suitable for the proposal, or the applicant may be given the opportunity to provide information that warrants a modification to the plan in the public's interest.

The plan establishes general guidelines for use of each tract, but "on-the-ground" management activities will be more clearly defined by TVA's resource management staffs. TVA land resource staffs comply with state-approved best management practices (BMPs) when implementing land management activities. The agency performs appropriate levels of environmental review on all proposed actions, including requests from the public for use of TVA lands (e.g., recreational and industrial easements or permits under Section 26a of the TVA Act). Most actions are classified as categorical exclusions (i.e., actions which by their very nature have no significant environmental impacts) and are subjected to environmental review in the form of an Environmental Decision Record (EDR). However, actions or proposals that do not qualify as categorical exclusions may require Environmental Assessments (EA) or Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) as stipulated under TVA's procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The plan encompasses a ten-year (1995-2005) planning horizon. During this time, TVA will monitor growth pressures, economic trends, and environmental conditions around the reservoir. The supporting data base will be updated on a regular basis. Revisions to the plan will be considered as changing circumstances warrant. After ten years, TVA will review the data, solicit public input, and update the plan.

This document is a synopsis of the results of the Wheeler Reservoir land management planning effort. Further details and documentation are contained in two appendices to the plan. Appendix A documents the public's comments and involvement in development of the plan. Appendix B contains information about the reservoir data collected for this planning process. Both appendices are available upon request.

Upper Wheeler Reservoir looking downstream about four miles below Guntersville Dam, September 1966.

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Description Of The Reservoir Area

Description Of The Reservoir Area

The following description of the reservoir area was drawn from information provided by various staffs within TVA. These data reflect a historical overview, the years prior to, during, and after dam construction, and a brief look at economic conditions associated with six counties adjacent to Wheeler Reservoir.

Wheeler - Historical Overview

The Wheeler basin lies in the center of a region known as the Middle Tennessee Valley. This area presented its aboriginal inhabitants with a rich and highly varied environment. The fertile soils, abundant water, and diverse geology and topography of the Wheeler basin resulted in many distinct environments, each with its particular mix of plants, animals, and minerals. As a result of this abundance of natural resources, Wheeler basin shows evidence of intensive utilization by aboriginals. This use began some 12,000 years ago and lasted until just before the end of the prehistoric era, about 1400-1500 A.D.

Archaeologists divide the prehistoric occupation of this part of the Tennessee Valley into four successive stages: Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian, which are in turn divided into early, middle, and late periods. These stages are broadly defined segments of prehistory based on subsistence and level of social complexity.

Although stage developments did not take place in a uniform manner in time or in space, they provide a useful basic framework for discussions of prehistory.

The initial occupation of Wheeler basin occurred during the early Paleoindian period. Archaeologists do not know just when this occurred, but radiocarbon dates on these sites in eastern North America most commonly fall around 10,000 B.C. Paleoindians lived in small groups, and the total population was relatively small. They appear to have been highly mobile, leaving no traces of substantial shelter, food storage facilities, or other evidences of long-term occupation at a single site. Most of their sites are found on former levees of the river or on high ground overlooking sinkhole areas. Until recently, it was believed that they were a free-wandering people following herds of large game animals. However, some archaeologists now believe that Paleoindians, like the Archaic peoples who followed, may have developed a yearly economic cycle, called a seasonal round, moving from one area to another as a succession of plant and animal resources became available.

The Archaic stage, which began about 8000 B.C. and lasted in eastern North America until perhaps 500 B.C., is most readily characterized as the time during which an economic cycle developed and became the primary basis of settlement and subsistence. The most common food remains found by archaeologists represent deer and nuts, though a great variety of smaller animals, including turtles, fish, and shellfish were also eaten, as were other types of gathered fruits and seeds. Other plant foods, such as leaves, roots, tubers, etc., must have been very important, but remains of these are seldom preserved. Gardening also began during the late Archaic period, and new types of tools and technologies were developed. There is evidence of increased population as sites continuously became more numerous and larger, appearing in more diverse settings. Information collected by archaeologists also supports the idea of people beginning to settle down and construct shelters, as well as large

pits for food storage. Contacts with other groups increased, as indicated by artifacts and raw materials that must have been obtained by long-range trade networks.

The Woodland stage, 500 B.C. to 1000 A.D., is a time characterized by the development of settled village life, made possible by a highly successful adaptation to the forest environment. A variety of cultivated native plants contributed to the diet, but hunted and gathered foods still provided the primary subsistence. Houses became quite substantial, and by the end of the Woodland stage, it is likely that village sites were occupied by at least some of the inhabitants nearly year-round. Hunting parties and other groups still occupied a variety of task-oriented campsites throughout the year. Technological innovations of this time include the introduction of pottery near the initiations of the Woodland stage, and the introduction of the bow and arrow early in the late Woodland period, perhaps about A.D. 800. Elaborate mortuary ceremonies developed, including the use of burial mounds, charnel houses, and highly artistic artifacts obtained from or made of raw materials obtained from sources hundreds of miles away. Interaction with adjacent groups on a regional and interregional scale is clearly indicated. The Woodland period may have been the time of the first development of class distinctions and the establishment of a ruling elite.

The Mississippian stage, 1000-1500 A.D., is the most elaborate cultural expression in prehistoric eastern North America. Complex chiefdoms developed, and some chiefs ruled vast areas. Other elite classes included priests and warriors. One's social class and status were inherited rather than achieved. These classes were indicated and reinforced by an elaborate system of symbols often expressed in artifacts of sophisticated art and craft, using exotic materials. The settlement of the time has been simply described as Town and Temple. Permanent and, often, fortified villages were established. Many of these villages included one or more platform mounds that elevated chiefly or priestly residences, temples, charnel houses, or other buildings. During much of Mississippian times, however, a large percentage of the population lived in small farmsteads or hamlets spread across the countryside in areas of fertile soil. The subsistence was based on cultivated plants, primarily corn, beans, and squash.

Sometime in the late fifteenth century, the Mississippian life-style underwent a marked and, often, swift decline. A variety of explanations for this decline have been proposed, including disease and/or cultural disruption, caused by European contact and collapse due to internal stress. The Mississippian period marks the end of aboriginal occupation in the Wheeler basin area.

In the historic period the Wheeler Reservoir region lay at the intersection of territorial interests of three major Native American tribes, the Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Creek. Each of the three tribes jostled with each other for territorial or usage rights before the Europeans' presence was a significant factor. After the Europeans entered the area there were frequent conflicts, both physical and diplomatic. This friction culminated in the area's direct involvement in the Creek War of 1813-1814, which probably secured the Presidency for Andrew Jackson. Early recognition of the prime agricultural potential of the Wheeler Reservoir region made it a focus of speculative interest in the South during the period 1770-1820. This speculation involved the participation of some of the region's most noted adventurers and politicians, ranging from John Sevier to William Blount to Wade Hampton and Andrew Jackson, all of whom worked diligently to promote their interests and secure the land.

In 1818 the Alabama counties of Morgan, Jackson, Limestone, Lawrence, Lauderdale, and Franklin (which then included the present Colbert County) were created by the first session of the Territorial Legislature. In 1819 Alabama was admitted into the Union as a state and Huntsville was designated as its first capital and seat of the state constitutional convention. From this time on, Huntsville and Madison County have played a significant role in the political life of the state. At the time of secession, serious consideration was given to establishing Huntsville as the capital of the Confederacy.

The farmlands located along the "Great Bend" of the Tennessee River soon became a rich and diverse agricultural region. The name Great Bend was an Indian term adopted by early settlers to describe the arc of the Tennessee River. The river flowed in a southwesterly direction across the eastern part of Tennessee, turning westward below Chattanooga, then southwest into Alabama, and westward again across the northern part of Alabama to the extreme northeastern corner of Mississippi, completing the arc or bend of the river. The redlands surrounding the river became home to many large plantations, but the area was also populated by a far larger number of independent small farmers. A wide range of crops was grown here in the antebellum period. Cotton was the primary cash crop, but other crops were also important. The Moulton Valley was an important southern fruit supplier, and so much grain was produced in this area that it became known as the South's "Cereal Belt." To help tend these crops local planters and farmers frequently used black-slave labor, thus insuring a legacy of racial, as well as agricultural, diversity.

During the Civil War the people of the Wheeler Reservoir region found themselves divided politically. Though technically part of the Confederacy, northwest Alabama was considered a Unionist stronghold and a large number of local citizens actively opposed secession and the southern cause. Spies and saboteurs for both armies could be found in local communities, and marauding bands of citizens frequently fought skirmishes, burned bridges, and destroyed rail lines in support of both the South and the Union. The countryside also witnessed a number of spectacular raids and engagements by Northern and Confederate armies, including many led by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest.

The postwar years did little to reunite the population. Divisions which existed during the war continued as political divisions during the Reconstruction Period. Southern Unionists aligned themselves with the new black voters and instituted harsh Republican rule for a number of years. It was not until 1874 that the southern Democrats regained political power, and the bitter political legacy of the war began to subside.

Despite political problems, northwest Alabama entered the 1870s and 1880s with a new promise of economic prosperity. During the war Union soldiers became aware of the region's untapped resources and grew especially interested in its vast iron deposits. After the war many of these same soldiers returned as entrepreneurs, determined to exploit these assets. Using northern and European capital, they set about creating enterprises in places like Sheffield and Decatur. In one case Northerners constructed New Decatur, an entire city across the river from Decatur, which was to be the "Chicago of the South." Such endeavors gave residents hope for a better future, but, in reality, provided little else. Faced with intense competition from industrial operations in Birmingham, almost all such industries failed within a few years. Thus, the Wheeler Reservoir region was destined to remain a rural, isolated, and primarily agricultural region well into the twentieth century.

Prior to the establishment of TVA, Hales Bar Dam was built downstream from Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1913, and Wilson Dam near Florence, Alabama, was constructed in 1926.[2] Wheeler Dam was third in the group of river-control projects that constituted the first step in TVA's program. The full extent of the program was not made clear in the original bill, but the Muscle Shoals project was the starting point. The Wheeler Dam project, along with TVA's Cove Creek project (renamed Norris Dam) and located in eastern Tennessee on the Clinch River, would affect the lives of many people living throughout the Tennessee Valley.

Many of the agricultural products raised were bulky and difficult to transport. Roads were poor, and river or rail commerce was by far the most economical means of moving these products to long-distant markets, such as Chattanooga, Natchez, and New Orleans. However, there were problems even with these methods of transportation.

Four sets of shoals, Elk River Shoals, Big Muscle Shoals, Little Muscle Shoals, and Colbert Shoals, created a formidable obstacle to river transportation into the wilderness west of the Alleghenies. This series of rapids was located between the cities of Decatur and Florence, Alabama, through which the Tennessee River fell 134 feet (40.8 m) in 37 miles (60 km). At the Big Muscle Shoals, located near the downstream end of the series of rapids, the river fell 100 feet (30.5 m). Here a bed of flinty rocks stretched across a wide river bed, and the river was shallow and full of small islands. At low water there was barely a channel at all. The obvious desirability of continuous navigation along the river resulted in many plans and suggestions for improvement.

With the advent of organized government in the territory, attempts were made in 1831 to construct canals and locks to bypass the shoals (see Photograph A). These canals, although eventually constructed and used, were inadequate, expensive to maintain and operate, and of little lasting benefit. The single canal around the Big Muscle Shoals turned out to be almost useless. In the open river sections a 6-foot (1.8 m) channel was available only during high-river flow. With the canals, the limiting depth was approximately 3 feet (.9 m) under minimum flow conditions. The lateral canals above the Wilson Dam site were inadequate to carry much traffic through the upper shoals, and Elk River Shoals was impassable for large steamboats. In summary, at low water boats could not enter, and at high water they did not need to. Nevertheless, efforts to develop steamboat traffic continued. For the most part, however, operations were split into two sectors, the upper river route and the lower river route, with the shoals still blocking a unified route.

In 1832 the first railroad west of the Alleghenies opened. It was called the Tuscumbia Railroad, and it was only 2 1/2 miles long (4 km), reaching from the Tennessee River landing to the town of Tuscumbia.

Later the same year, plans were made to expand the railroad, and it was renamed the "Tuscumbia-Courtland-Decatur (TC&D) Railroad." The project was most significant because it demonstrated the potential for rail transportation, and it particularly demonstrated a possible solution to the problem of the Muscle Shoals. Because of the railroad, Courtland gained notoriety as a booming railroad town. The TC&D railroad also stimulated interest in Limestone

[2] Hales Bar Dam was acquired by the Tennessee Valley Authority from the Tennessee Electric Power Company on August 16, 1939. Wilson Dam was acquired by the Tennessee Valley Authority through a transfer from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, May 18, 1933.

A. View looking east from bluff on north bank of Tennessee River, Wheeler Reservoir, showing lock No. 1 and Old Muscle Shoals Canal with water elevation 518.38. Lock No. 1 was inundated, August 1936.

County, and soon investors formed the Athens Railroad Company to serve the north side of the river. In 1866 a new railroad bridge at Decatur was constructed that connected Limestone County to Morgan County and expanded rail service to both sides of the river.

Even though rail service provided an alternative to negotiating the Muscle Shoals problem, limitations were evident because of a need to transfer goods from one mode of transport to another. This transfer process was both costly and time-consuming, and the rail network had not expanded enough to compete with river transportation.

The growing use of hydroelectric power introduced a possible solution to the navigation problem at the shoals by making possible a multipurpose, income-producing development. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recommended, under the Federal Water Power Act, that a 9-foot-deep (2.7 m) navigable channel be provided by means of a series of high dams. Congress proposed a combination of subsidized navigation facilities and private power-generating facilities at the Wilson site. Part of the power generated from Wilson Dam was to support energy needs for the nitrate fixation plants located at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, as authorized by the National Defense Act of 1916. When no response from the private sector surfaced, USACE recommended immediate construction of the two navigation dams between the head of Colbert Shoals (Wheeler Dam—Tennessee River mile 275 and Guntersville Dam—Tennessee River mile 349) and Hales Bar near Chattanooga, Tennessee. The estimated cost of these projects was $22,500,000.

Wheeler - The Dam and Reservoir Project

Wheeler Dam was named for General Joe Wheeler, whose home was located about 17 miles (27 km) from the dam site. General Joe (or Fighting Joe Wheeler) earned recognition as a general in the Army of the Confederacy and a leader of the U.S. Volunteers in the Spanish-American War. While representing Alabama in the U.S. Congress, General Wheeler introduced a bill in 1898 providing for the development of Muscle Shoals as a power-navigation project. Although no construction was undertaken, this bill was the first of the series which ultimately led to passage of the TVA Act (see Photograph B).

On July 21, 1932, Congress appropriated $30 million through the Emergency Relief and Construction Act for previously authorized river and harbor projects, which included a lock and dam at the Wheeler site (Tennessee River mile 275). Construction on the lock started in January of 1933. Initially, the lock was to be a single 37-foot (11 m) lift structure. This lock, with the construction of a dam of corresponding height, would establish the reservoir pool level at elevation 544 feet (166 m).

Soon after the establishment of TVA in May 1933, the TVA Board of Directors arranged with USACE to change Wheeler lock to allow more adequate development of this section of the river. Studies made by TVA indicated that raising the dam to elevation 556.3 feet (170 m), 12 feet (4 m) above the height planned by USACE, would provide a longer navigation pool, increase flood storage capacity, and allow for the addition of power facilities. On October 21, 1933, the TVA Board of Directors authorized construction to begin.

B. Franklin Roosevelt signing the TVA Act, May 18, 1933.

While Wheeler Dam was being constructed, an August 31, 1935, amendment to the TVA Act required TVA to report to Congress its recommendations for the unified development of the Tennessee River system. The concept submitted to Congress in March of 1936 provided for plans to develop a 9-foot (2.7 m) navigable channel extending from the mouth of the river near Paducah, Kentucky, to Knoxville, Tennessee, a distance of 650 miles (1,046 km). The proposed system would include nine main-river, multipurpose dams like Wheeler (1933-1936) and Pickwick (1934-1938), and three or more tributary storage dams, similar to Norris (1933-1936). The system would contribute substantially to the control of floods on the Tennessee, lower Ohio, and lower Mississippi Rivers and provide many related benefits, including a large supply of electric power.[3]

Wheeler, the first of nine mainstream dams, is 72 feet high (21.9 m) and 6,342 feet long (1,933 m). The three-year project, completed October 3, 1936, provided over 4,700 badly needed jobs for the west Tennessee and north Alabama region. The project involved more than construction of the dam and lock. It involve the acquisition of 103,400 acres (41,846 ha) of land in Lauderdale, Limestone, Lawrence, Madison, Morgan, and Marshall Counties. Other project activities included surveying, mapping, and clearing the reservoir area; re-building bridges; relocating roads, cemeteries, and powerlines; reforesting over 6,000 acres (2,428 ha) of eroded land; and the purchase of $30 million worth of materials and equipment (see Photographs C, D, E, and F).

Land acquisition began in 1934. In general, all land that would be flooded or subject to damage by the reservoir was purchased. General authority was granted by the TVA Board of Directors for acquiring all land extending up to one-eighth mile beyond the 560-foot (170.7-m) contour elevation. The agency also purchased tracts of 20 acres (8 ha) or less if part of the tract fell within the one-eighth-mile limit that included area necessary to carry out the objectives of the Wheeler project.

Many problems associated with land acquisition related to areas characterized by flat topography. Oftentimes there was no conclusive evidence regarding the extent of future impoundment damages and, since substantial costs were involved, these parcels were not purchased. Examples of such sites are along the ends of large embayments, floodplains along extended tributaries, and sinkhole areas near Spring Creek in Lawrence County.

The Decatur waterfront and the Dry Creek area also proved to be a special problem. In general, it was decided to acquire flowage easements (right to flood) instead of purchasing fee-simple titles (property deeds). This adjustment was contrary to policy, but it was done to permit Decatur industries to retain their raw water supply and navigation rights and to limit adverse impacts on Decatur housing and public utilities.

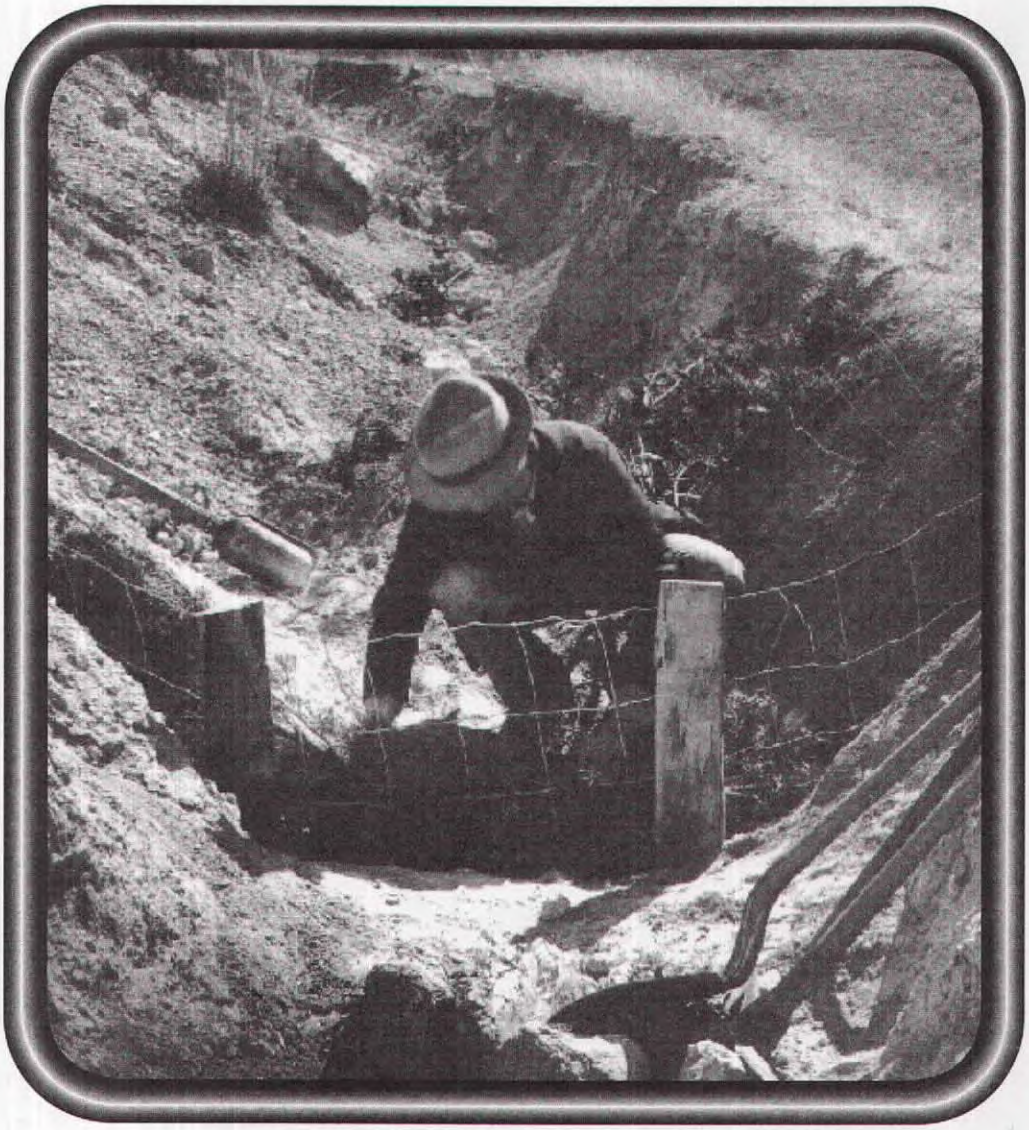
TVA acquired approximately 54,000 acres (21,854 ha) of land for the Wheeler project that would not be flooded by the impounded reservoir (see Photograph G). TVA seeded about 17,000 acres (6,880 ha) of reservoir land to lespedeza crop, to control soil erosion and promote better land management practices. Organized groups of farmers wanted to cooperate with TVA by initiating a program that would educate and demonstrate proper land use and conservation practices on lands not required for TVA's primary functions. Continuous cultivation and poor farming methods had depleted the fertility of much of the land adjacent

[3] Report to Congress on the Unified Development of the Tennessee River System, Tennessee Valley Authority, pp. 9-12, March 1936.

C. Clearing Wheeler Reservoir, c. 1935.

D. *Steam shovel and dump truck-relocating roads, c. 1935.*

E. Erecting transmission pole, providing power to rural areas in the Tennessee Valley, November 1944.



F. *Constructing an erosion check dam, February 1941.*

G. Typical view of Alabama bottomland inundated by Wheeler Reservoir Project. Overlook from Sand Mountain, April 1953.

to the reservoir and subjected it to erosion. Working in partnership with county soil conservation associations and the Alabama Agricultural Extension Service, arrangements were made to harvest some of the lespedeza seed crop and sell it to cooperating farmers. Following this idea, TVA began to license portions of federal land to local farmers who would grow seed and then be required to return a portion of the seed as partial payment for use of the land. In 1937, TVA received 240,000 pounds (108,864 kilograms [kg]) of seed harvested by farmers on a share basis. It was used to seed additional land around Wheeler and other TVA reservoirs. Prior to this locally-sponsored program, practically no winter legumes (i.e., lespedeza) were grown on land within the six counties adjacent to the Wheeler area.

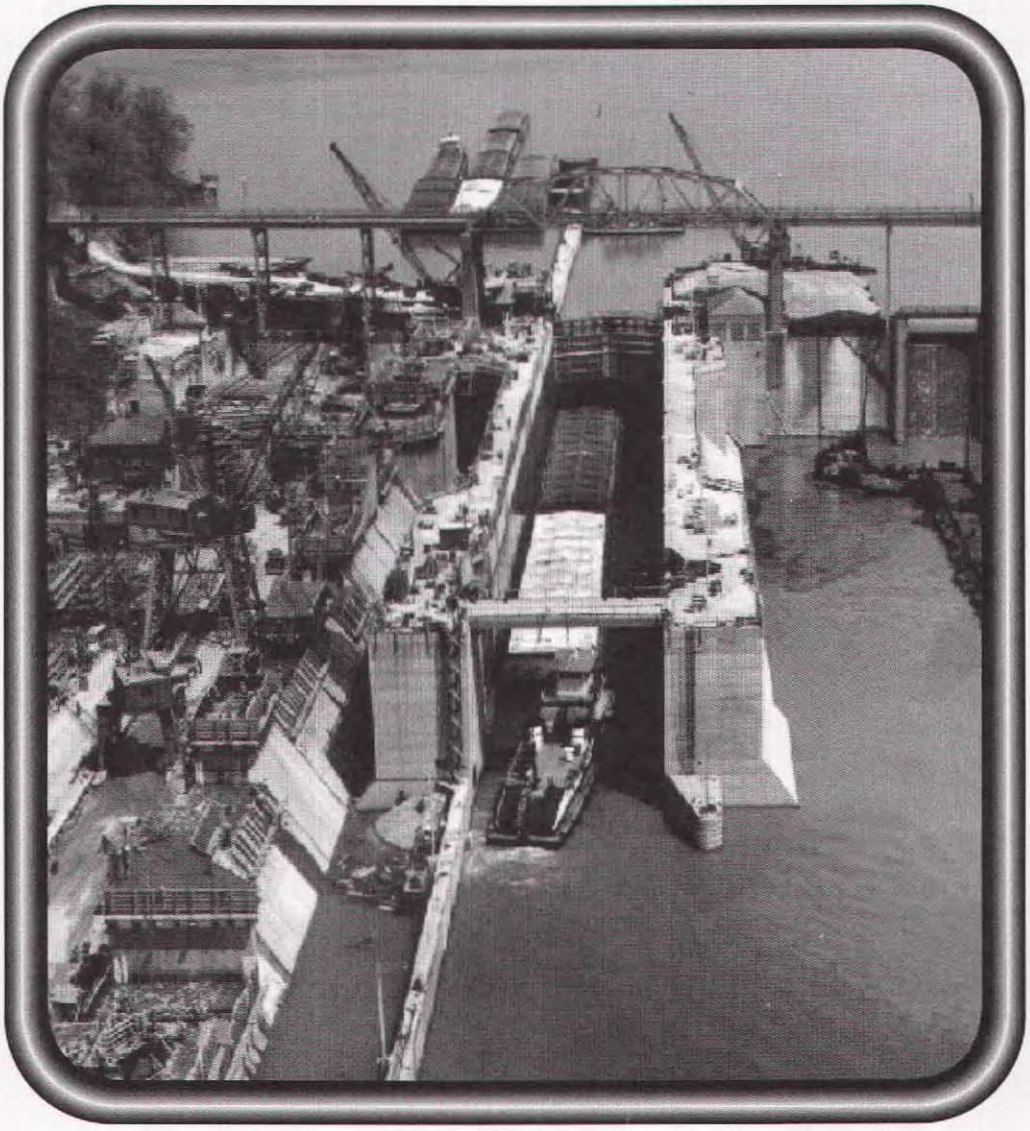
Over the next two years (1938-1939), the cooperative program, using rental permits, was again expanded to incorporate diversified land use practices for 10,457 acres (4,232 ha) suited to agricultural uses. It was estimated that approximately one-half of the acreage would be used to grow row crops, a little over a quarter for permanent pasture, and the balance for timber production.

As a part of TVA's continuing conservation efforts to improve the soil conditions adjacent to the reservoir, the agency initiated yet another demonstration program during the early 1940s. This program provided chemical fertilizer to those licensees who would agree to try the new product on agricultural crops and pastures. Within a few years, the use of TVA's chemical fertilizers proved effective in rebuilding worn out land.

The filling of the reservoir began October 31, 1936, and the original navigation lock (60 feet wide by 360 feet long by 52 feet high [18.3 m by 109.7 m by 15.8 m]) was opened for operation on December 1, 1936. Wheeler Reservoir formed a 67,100-acre impoundment (27,155 ha), providing 74 miles (119 km) of continuous navigable channel and ensuring a safe minimum depth of nine feet (2.7 m). The reservoir created over 1,063 miles (1,710 km) of protected shoreline. Twenty-five years later on June 2, 1961, failure of the original Wheeler lock occurred when the north (landward) wall suddenly shifted northward and broke apart (see Photograph H). The rebuilt lock, completed April 1962, is currently designated an auxiliary lock and occupies the same position as the original lock, but with an additional 40-foot (12.2 m) extension of the chamber at the downstream end (60 feet wide by 400 feet long by 52 feet high [18.3 m by 122 m by 15.9 m]). The design change was made to accommodate two 195-foot-long (59.4 m) "jumbo" barges instead of one. In October 1960, concurrent development of a new (110 feet wide by 600 feet long by 52 feet high [33.5 m by 182.9 m by 15.9 m]) lock was also being constructed north (landward) of the existing lock and was operational by May 1963. This "super lock" was designed to accommodate the projected increase in demand for river commerce, exceeding 9.7 million tons of products annually (1990). The larger lock also encouraged industrial growth upstream from Wheeler Dam toward Knoxville, Tennessee.

Other characteristics relating to the reservoir are the industrial facilities located at Decatur. They represent the largest concentration of waterfront industrial development in the Tennessee Valley region. In addition to flood control and navigation improvement, the Wheeler lock and dam now provide 375,300 kilowatts of power capacity from its 11 hydropowered generation units.

Wheeler Reservoir is composed of two principal bodies of water: the 74-mile-long (119-km) "main channel" of the Tennessee River and a 25-mile-long (40-km) segment of the Elk River, the reservoir's major tributary. The Elk River flows in a southwesterly direction



H. Construction of the new navigation lock at Wheeler Dam, April 1962. After completion, May 1963, the new lock could accomodate up to nine barges. The original lock could hold only two.

to intersect the Tennessee River at river mile 284.5, about 10 miles (16 km) upstream from Wheeler Dam. The Elk River currently represents the greatest concentration of private residential development on the entire reservoir.

Other tributaries with large watersheds, smaller than the Elk River, but collectively providing significant inflow to Wheeler Reservoir, are as follows: Flint Creek (Tennessee River mile 309L), Limestone Creek (Tennessee River mile 310.5R), Cotaco Creek (Tennessee River mile 319.1L), Indian Creek (Tennessee River mile 321R), Flint River (Tennessee River mile 339R), and Paint Rock River (Tennessee River mile 343.2R).

In the 1950s the agency initiated a review to identify, declare surplus, and sell or transfer all reservoir land that was not permanently inundated or needed for specific projects or program purposes. Land uses included navigation or related industrial development, flood control, power generation, or public water access. The review process came about in part from pressure by TVA agriculturalists who hoped that sold lands would be returned to agricultural production. However, on Wheeler Reservoir much of the land was sold for agricultural uses or transferred to public agencies for parks, recreation areas, and wildlife management areas. Later some of the farmland was resold for residential purposes.

The larger TVA land transfers or long-term agreements to other public agencies were:

Agency	Acres	(hectare)	Year
Redstone Arsenal	2,905	(1,176)	1941
Joe Wheeler State Park	1,939	(785)	1952
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge	8,318	(3,366)	1959
Swan Creek State Wildlife Mgmt. Area	3,045	(1,232)	1978
Decatur Point Mallard Municipal Park	375	(152)	1987
Mallard/Fox Creek State Wildlife Mgmt. Area	1,616	(654)	*
Total	18,198	(7,365)	

*Currently being negotiated between TVA and the state in response to a 1980 Environmental Impact Statement record of decision.

By the late 1950s TVA became concerned that, Valleywide, it had disposed of too much waterfront land suitable for recreation, navigation, and industrial uses, and that it would not be able to meet the public use and economic development needs for future generations.

As a result of this concern, TVA conducted a study of its remaining landholdings that served as the basis for a 1960 TVA Board of Director's decision to end the disposal program on all reservoir projects completed at that time.

Although TVA decided in the early 1960s to stop selling land for residential development, it continues to make land available on a case-by-case basis for selected reservoir-related uses, such as commercial, industrial, and recreational development serving the public interest.

Of the initial 103,400 acres (41,846 ha) purchased for the Wheeler Reservoir project, approximately 15,600 acres (6,313 ha) have been sold and 10,300 acres (4,168 ha) have

been transferred. In addition, approximately 49,200 acres (19,911 ha) are inundated or floodprone. An additional 17,000 acres (6,880 ha) are managed to accommodate private water-use facilities under TVA's marginal strip policy, or committed for long-term leases or other commitments and are not affected by the current land management planning effort. A balance of approximately 11,300 acres (4,573 ha) remains available to meet future public needs. The 11,300 acres (4,573 ha) represents less than 11.5 percent of the 103,400 acres (41,846 ha) initially acquired for the project.

Wheeler - Economic Overview

With the exception of the economic overview, the Wheeler Land Management Plan includes portions of six northern Alabama counties. These counties are Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan. Each was selected because its geographic boundaries are physically contiguous to the reservoir. However, when discussing the economic profile of the region as it relates to Wheeler, TVA's economists found it prudent to include Colbert County. Colbert's eastern boundary is located downstream along Town Creek, approximately 3 river miles (5 km) below Wheeler Dam. However, the commuting distance to the Colbert County towns of Sheffield, Tuscumbia, and Muscle Shoals from many of the six counties adjacent to Wheeler Reservoir would be an hour or less. Because of today's mobile society, it appears this integrated "population center" of neighboring cities would offer commuters attractive economic opportunities affecting many of the topics discussed in this section of the land management plan. Colbert County further influences the Wheeler region because of the unique relationship between Florence's (Lauderdale County) and Sheffield's (Colbert County) social and economic commonalities. To analyze the economic conditions of Florence and eliminate Sheffield, Tuscumbia, and Muscle Shoals, as part of the total profile, would likely represent a significant error in the evaluation. An analysis of population, labor force, employment, income, sales, housing, and education for the seven-county area was prepared by TVA to help understand the economic profile of the reservoir lands being studied.

The following section summarizes the comprehensive analysis.

Population

The population of the Wheeler area (626,800) is projected to increase by 3 percent, greater than the 2.6 percent increase projected for the state of Alabama for the period from 1990 to 2000. Table I details the seven-county population projections for the period 1960 to 2000.

TABLE I

COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS
1960-2000

County	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Colbert	46,506	49,632	54,519	51,666	51,300
Lauderdale	61,622	68,111	80,546	79,661	79,900
Lawrence	24,501	27,281	30,170	31,513	30,800
Limestone	36,513	41,699	46,005	54,135	55,900
Madison	117,348	186,540	196,966	238,912	248,700
Marshall	48,018	54,211	65,622	70,832	75,100
Morgan	60,454	77,306	90,231	100,043	104,100
Wheeler Seven-County Area Total	394,962	504,780	564,059	626,762	645,800
Alabama	3,266,740	3,444,354	3,894,025	4,040,587	4,145,900
United States (000)	180,671	203,302	226,542	248,710	NA

PERCENT CHANGE IN POPULATION

County	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	1960-2000
Colbert	6.7	9.8	(5.2)	(0.7)	10.3
Lauderdale	10.5	18.3	(1.1)	0.3	29.7
Lawrence	11.3	10.6	4.5	(2.3)	25.7
Limestone	14.2	10.3	17.7	3.3	53.1
Madison	59.0	5.6	21.3	4.1	111.9
Marshall	12.9	21.0	7.9	6.0	56.4
Morgan	27.9	16.7	10.9	4.1	72.2
Wheeler Seven-County Area Total	27.8	11.7	11.1	3.0	
Alabama	5.4	13.1	3.8	2.6	
United States	12.5	11.4	9.8	NA	

NA - Not Available

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Analysis Division, County Projections to 2040.

As shown in Table I, Madison County accounted for more than one-third of the area's total population in1990. Morgan County ranks second with a 16 percent share, followed by Lauderdale with 13 percent of the total seven-county population. Historically, Madison, Morgan, Marshall, and Limestone Counties have shown the major growth of population within the area, and Marshall County is expected to provide the greatest percent change in population for the period 1990-2000. Between 1970 and 1980 the state of Alabama experienced a 13 percent population growth. However, from 1980 to 1990 the population for the state grew by only 3.8 percent. As seen in Table I, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan Counties are expected to exceed the state in percent change in population growth through 2000.

Labor Force and Unemployment

The prime labor force age group in the Wheeler area, aged 25 through 54, comprised 43.6 percent of the 1990 population. This was slightly higher than the 40.9 percent for the state of Alabama during the same period.

The major contributor to the area's labor force is Madison County, which accounted for 41 percent of the area's labor pool in 1991. Morgan, Marshall, and Lauderdale Counties are also major contributors to the area's labor force.

In September 1992 the civilian labor force of the seven-county area had more than 331,000 people, as shown in Table II. Of those, about 17,400 were unemployed at that time, for an unemployment rate of 5.2 percent. Madison County had the lowest unemployment in the Wheeler area at 4 percent. Other area counties had unemployment rates between 5.0 and 8.3 percent as of September 1992.

Since the 1982 recession, the rate of unemployment in the Wheeler area has generally been higher than that of the United States but lower than the state of Alabama, as shown in Table III. The unemployment rates in the counties within the area have varied considerably. In 1982 and 1983 unemployment in Colbert and Lawrence Counties peaked at 19 to 20 percent, and Lawrence County recorded the highest unemployment rate (20.4 percent) of any county in the Wheeler area from 1980 to 1991. Madison and Limestone Counties generally had the area's lowest unemployment rates during the 1980 to 1991 period.

Employment

Employment in the Wheeler area has risen fairly steadily since 1970. In 1990 the area's total employment, including proprietors, exceeded 357,000, an increase of over 35 percent since 1980. The labor force employment figures found in Table II do not include the proprietor or small business enterprises. The Wheeler area's largest employers are located in Madison County (Huntsville). Madison County employed almost one-half of the area's employed population in 1990.

TABLE II

LABOR FORCE FOR WHEELER AREA
ANNUAL AVERAGE 1991

County	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Colbert	24,300	22,170	2,130	8.8
Lauderdale	37,870	35,140	2,730	7.2
Lawrence	13,130	11,700	1,430	10.9
Limestone	28,760	26,610	2,150	7.5
Madison	134,160	127,140	7,020	5.2
Marshall	38,800	35,610	3,190	8.2
Morgan	49,020	45,560	3,460	7.1
Wheeler Seven-County Area Total	326,040	303,930	22,110	6.8
Alabama	1,894,000	1,758,000	136,000	7.2
United States	125,303,000	116,877,000	8,426,000	6.7

LABOR FORCE FOR WHEELER AREA
SEPTEMBER 1992 (PRELIMINARY)

County	Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Colbert	24,170	22,560	1,610	6.7
Lauderdale	37,940	35,760	2,180	5.7
Lawrence	12,820	11,760	1,060	8.3
Limestone	30,740	29,210	1,530	5.0
Madison	136,500	131,020	5,480	4.0
Marshall	40,190	37,770	2,420	6.0
Morgan	48,910	45,820	3,090	6.3
Wheeler Seven-County Area Total	331,270	313,900	17,370	5.2
Alabama	1,944,900	1,817,900	127,000	6.5
United States	127,273,000	117,701,000	9,572,000	7.5

Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

TABLE III

WHEELER AREA
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
AVERAGE ANNUAL 1980-1991

Year	Wheeler Area	Alabama	United States
1980	9.7	8.8	7.1
1981	11.0	10.7	7.6
1982	14.1	14.4	9.7
1983	12.7	13.7	9.6
1984	10.6	11.2	7.5
1985	8.2	8.9	7.2
1986	9.7	9.8	7.0
1987	7.1	7.8	6.2
1988	6.7	7.2	5.5
1989	6.6	7.0	5.3
1990	6.1	6.8	5.5
1991	6.8	7.2	6.7
1980s Average	9.6	9.9	7.3

Source: Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

Further increases are anticipated, and the employment-to-population ratio is expected to reach 58 percent by the year 2000. An important source of job creation from 1980 to 1990 was the manufacturing sector, which provided 83,200 jobs in 1990. This represents an increase of 27 percent over the ten-year period.

In 1990 manufacturing industries accounted for over 25 percent of the Wheeler area's wage and salary jobs. Some of the industries within the manufacturing sector have experienced dramatic changes in the last decade. Nondurable manufacturing employment experienced essentially no growth in the last ten years. In contrast, durable manufacturers increased their employment by almost 50 percent. Area nonelectrical machinery manufacturers have added close to 10,000 employees to their payrolls since 1980. Some major manufacturers that maintain strong labor forces include Acustar, Inc.; General Motors Corporation; Intergraph Corporation; Ona Corporation; Reynolds Metal Company; Dunlop Tire Corporation; and General Electric Company.

Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries employed 5,639 residents in 1980, which accounted for only 2.5 percent of the total resident employment. In 1960 approximately three times that number were employed by this sector. This significant decline over the 20-year period parallels national employment trends for this sector. The major portion of the decline occurred in the 1960s when the United States economy was changing rapidly from a reliance on agriculture

to a dependence on manufacturing to fuel economic growth. Though the rate of decline for this sector is predicted to slow during the next 20 years, further decline is expected in the Wheeler area for this employment sector.

The service sector was the area's second largest employer, providing almost 60,000 jobs, or 20 percent of the area's wage and salary employment. The service sector experienced an employment increase of almost 80 percent in the last decade, making this the fastest-growing sector in the Wheeler area.

Other major job gains in nonagricultural employment for the period of 1980 to 1990 were in wholesale and retail trade sectors, each increasing its employment by more than 50 percent. Collectively, these industries provided almost 60,000 jobs in 1990, and they accounted for about 25 percent of the 82,800 net jobs created in the last decade. During the period from 1980 to 1990, employment in the state increased by 19 percent, while employment increased by almost 36 percent in the Wheeler seven-county area. Employment growth in the Wheeler area has therefore outpaced the state. Through the year 2000, the growth in area employment is projected to track closely with employment at the state level.

Occupation Patterns

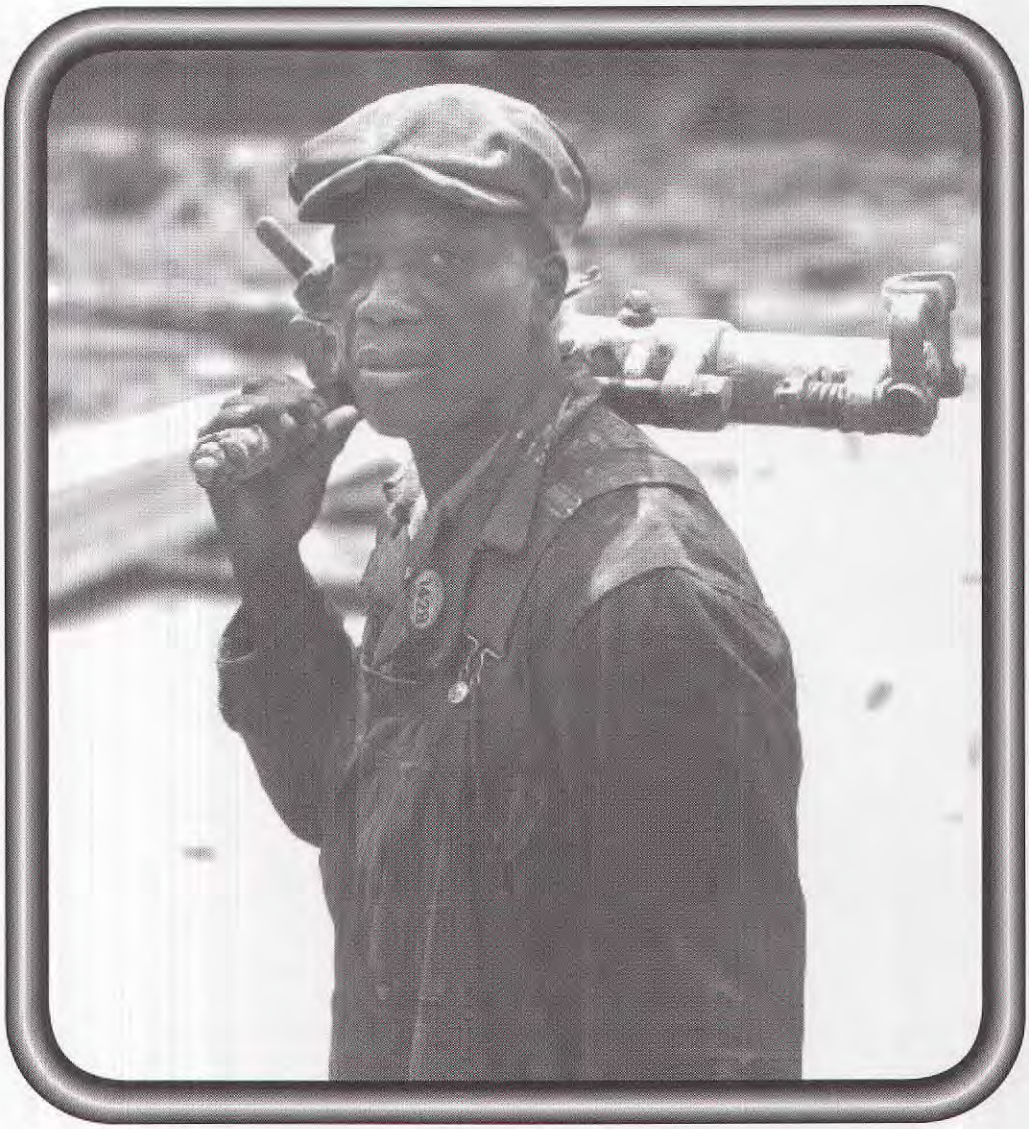
An analysis of the occupational distribution of employed residents (16 years and older) of the Wheeler seven-county area reveals that in 1980 Madison County had the largest percentage (29.5) of white-collar jobs. Morgan County (19.7 percent) and Lauderdale County (19.2 percent) were equivalent to the state figures of 19.8 percent of white-collar jobs. Approximately 45 percent of the employed residents in Colbert, Lawrence, Limestone, and Marshall Counties have jobs in precision production, craft, or repair. Others have jobs as operators, fabricators, and laborers (see Photographs I and J). This compares with 33 percent of the state of Alabama.

Income and Retail Sales

Income growth in the Wheeler seven-county area has outpaced that of the state and nation for the period 1979 to 1990. During the same period, the Wheeler population increased faster than that of the state and nation. The net result of faster income and population growth was a slight rise in the relative (to the United States) per capita income for the Wheeler area. Per capita personal income in the area increased 123 percent between 1979 and 1990. This is greater than the increase experienced by the state of Alabama (112 percent) or the United States as a whole (107 percent). The per capita income of Wheeler area residents in 1990 was $16,375, exceeding the levels of both the state of Alabama and the 201-county Tennessee Valley region. Madison County's per capita income ($18,990) was the highest in the Wheeler area during 1990.

The manufacturing sector currently generates 31 percent of the area's earnings by place of work, compared to 23 percent for the state. Lawrence County is more dependent on manufacturing, with 42 percent of earnings by place of work attributed to area manufacturers. Lauderdale is the least dependent on manufacturing, with less than 25 percent of earnings by place of work originating in the manufacturing sector.

I. Turbine installation--Wheeler Dam, c. 1936.



J. TVA construction worker--Wheeler Dam, c. 1936.

Over 12 percent of the Wheeler area's income is generated from dividends, interest, and rent. Lauderdale County, by this measure, is the "richest" in the area at 16 percent of income, while Lawrence County is the "poorest" at less than 8 percent.

The Wheeler seven-county area depends less on government assistance than does the state as a whole, with transfer payments accounting for 16 percent of the area's income (as compared to 18 percent in the state). Madison County exhibits the lowest reliance on transfer payments, at 14 percent of income, while Colbert County is the highest at 20 percent.

Madison, Morgan, and Marshall Counties accounted for close to 75 percent of the area's total retail sales in 1987. In 1987 retail trade sales in the Wheeler seven-county area represented 48 percent of total income. Of the income spent on retail sales, almost one-half was for food and automobiles. An examination of sales by selected store groups, i.e., food, general merchandise, furnishings, automotive, and drugs, indicates the retail activity in the area is largely confined to the metropolitan areas, such as Huntsville and Decatur.

Receipts in 1987 of selected services, such as hotels, repair services, amusements, and legal services in the Wheeler area were 24 percent of total income. There is considerable variation in the percentage of income spent on services within individual counties. For example, at one extreme, Madison County spent the most (37 percent) and Lawrence County spent the least (5 percent) on services. The higher percentages indicate Madison, Morgan, Colbert, and Lauderdale Counties (Huntsville, Decatur, Sheffield, Florence) tend to serve as principal service centers for the remaining counties in the Wheeler area.

Housing

Housing in the Wheeler seven-county area is generally newer than for the remainder of the state. In Colbert County, however, the housing stock is older than the state averages. Based on 1990 median values, housing in Madison, Limestone, and Morgan Counties is more expensive than the median value for the state of Alabama. Lawrence County had the lowest-priced housing of the area counties at $44,300, compared to Madison, Morgan, and Lauderdale Counties at $77,900, $60,900, and $56,300, respectively. The median value of housing in the state of Alabama was $53,700 in 1990.

Lakefront lots on Wheeler Reservoir with 100-foot (30.5 m) shoreline frontages, one-third-to-one-half acre in size, currently sell for between $40,000 to $50,000. The average cabin or moderately sized home on a developed lakefront lot sells for between $85,000 and $125,000.

The market continues to grow for lakefront and lakeview real estate around Wheeler Reservoir. Prior to 1960 TVA sold in excess of 15,000 acres (6,071 ha) of property fronting over 150 miles (14 percent [160 km]) of Wheeler shoreline for private, commercial, and industrial development. Even though TVA no longer sells land for private residential development, it continues to receive pressure from land development companies seeking public land for private residential use. TVA estimates that over 78 percent (12,000 ac. [4,845 ha]) of the lakefront acreage formerly sold for private development on Wheeler still remains undeveloped.

Housing vacancy rates in the seven-county area are lower than the average for the state of Alabama (9.8 percent). Morgan County had the lowest vacancy rate in the area at 6.5 percent. Limestone and Marshall Counties had the highest vacancy rates at 8.2 percent each.

Schooling

In the state of Alabama, 67 percent of persons 25 years old and over have graduated from high school, and 16 percent have earned a bachelor's or higher degree. In the seven-county Wheeler area, Madison County greatly exceeded these averages. Over 80 percent of Madison County's population over 25 years old are high school graduates, and over 30 percent have earned a bachelor's or higher degree, according to statistics from the 1990 Census of Population.

Together, population and income growth (or lack of growth) are the most reliable indicators of an area's economic health and vitality. The Wheeler Reservoir economic area outpaced both the state of Alabama and the nation in both of these indicators during the decade of the 1980s. Thus, any overall assessment of the prospects of continued economic prosperity in the Wheeler Reservoir area must be, all things considered, positive.

However, the Wheeler Reservoir area economy is composed of seven counties and many distinct business sectors. Furthermore, economic growth potential varies dramatically among the counties and business sectors. For example, Madison County has experienced outstanding economic growth during the last ten years, and most experts expect that growth to continue. But Madison County is heavily reliant on Department of Defense spending to maintain its economy. Thus, given the emphasis on decreasing federal spending, it is possible to envision a scenario in which the positive trends in Huntsville are negated or even reversed.

On the industrial (business) side, manufacturing contributed significantly to Wheeler Reservoir area employment growth in the 1980s, and this growth has been heavily concentrated in durable goods (transportation equipment, machinery, etc.) at the expense of nondurable goods (apparel, food, etc.). Many economic studies have supported the proposition that durable goods industries are more sensitive to national business cycles than are nondurable goods industries. The conclusion for the Wheeler Reservoir area is that there is good reason to suspect that the local economy will be more active in the coming years than it was in the 1980s.

Wheeler - Key Reservoir Features

To gain a better understanding of the reservoir landscape and shoreline alterations which have evolved since 1936, a word picture of the reservoir environment projected from a lake user's point of view is provided in the following table. "Snapshots" of key features have been listed and located by river mile. The reservoir tour begins at Wheeler Dam and travels east some 74 miles (119 km) upstream to the tailwater below Guntersville Dam. It may be useful to reference the plan land maps (1 through 7) to place a particular feature in proper prospective with its reservoir location.

TABLE IV

KEY RESERVOIR FEATURES BY RIVER MILE

(Reference Plan Land Maps 1 through 7)

Tennessee River Mile*	Reservoir Features
275	Wheeler Dam and Reservation (30-unit campground and TVA public recreation area below the dam)
275-279R	Joe Wheeler State Resort Park (north)
275-276L	Joe Wheeler State Resort Park (south)
282.5L	Champion International Corporation and corporate recreation area
283L	Spring Creek embayment (intensive informal public use)
284.5L	TVA Goldfield Public Recreation Area (ramp and parking only)
Elk R. 5R	Highway 72 State Rest Area and Picnic Area/State Ramp
Elk R. 5L	The old Elk River Lodge now operated by state parks (Joe Wheeler Park)
Elk R. 23R	The abandoned fish hatchery site
285.0L	Confluence of the Elk River and Wheeler Reservoir
286R	Lucy's Branch Resort (privately owned—open to public)
286.8R	Limestone County park (license expired 1991) - Lucy's Branch Park
293-295R	TVA Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
293L	TVA Mallard Creek Public Recreation Area
293-296L	Mallard and Fox Creek (state wildlife management area—proposed 30-year easement)
297.7R	TVA Round Island Creek (Cow Ford) Public Recreation Area
299-305R	Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area and Whiteside Dewatering Unit - 3,030 acres (1,226 ha)
298L	Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority and Mallard-Fox Creek Industrial Park- 1,110 acres (449 ha)

*L = left bank; R = right bank

TABLE IV

(continued)

Tennessee River Mile*	Reservoir Feature
299-324R	Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge and dewatering projects
299-307.5L	Decatur and Decatur industrial waterfront
301.1L	Decatur State Docks at Bakers Creek
302.8L	Jay's Landing Marina (private)
303.7L	Brickyard Harbor and Dry Boat Storage (private)
304.5	Louisville and Nashville/Southern Railroad Bridge crossing
305	Decatur Municipal Boat Harbor and day use park
305	Keller Memorial Bridge crossing at Decatur (U.S. 31, SR20, U.S. alternate 72)
307.8-308.9L	Point Mallard Municipal Park at Flint Creek
308-324L	Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters and Observation Center (Flint Creek and upstream to Crowder Slough)
309.5	I-65 Bridge crossing at Decatur
319L	Confluence of Cotaco Creek and Wheeler Reservoir
321R	Triana Recreation Area
323.4R-332.1R	TVA/Redstone Arsenal Restricted Area
324R	Redstone Arsenal Recreation Area
329-330R	Bell Bluff and Lehmans Bluff
333.3	U.S. Highway 321 Bridge crossing (Whitesburg Bridge at Huntsville)
333.4R	Huntsville-Madison County Marina (Ditto Landing)
334.7R	Madison County Boat Harbor and Park (operated by Madison County Yacht Club)
334.1-336.5	Hobbs Island

*L = left bank; R = right bank

TABLE IV

(continued)

Tennessee River Mile*	Reservoir Feature
336.6R	Baker Sand and Gravel Operation
339R	Confluence of Flint River and Wheeler Reservoir
334.2R	Confluence of Paint Rock River and Wheeler Reservoir
344.9R	Painted Bluff (notice TVA 161kv tower)
347.1L	Confluence of Shoal Creek and Wheeler Reservoir
349	Guntersville Dam and Reservation (TVA public recreation development below dam on left and right banks)

*L = left bank; R = right bank

Annual Meeting of the Joe Wheeler Electric Cooperative in Decatur, Alabama, December 1946.

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Planning Process

The Planning Process

Planning Team Mission

A seven-member Wheeler Reservoir planning team, representing various staffs within TVA, undertook a detailed planning process that resulted in the land use allocations presented in this plan. Site visits, public input (Appendix A), and information from TVA's resource specialists (Appendix B) were carefully analyzed in making land use allocations.

Wheeler Resource Data

TVA's resource specialists provided information which was used to develop an extensive computerized data base about physical resource characteristics of the land; existing uses of TVA land and adjoining property; economic conditions in the six-county reservoir area; and such environmental constraints as wetlands, floodplains, threatened and endangered species, and water and air quality. Other resource data, often more detailed, were collected on site-specific archaeological concentrations, historic structures, forest resources, prime farmland, and wildlife habitats. Some data were gathered from a designated study area that extended about one-half mile (.80 km) from TVA's property line. Appendix B contains a description of the reservoir data base.

TVA Public Informational Process

In addition to documented resource data, local residents and lake users were important in determining suitable uses for TVA public lands adjacent to the reservoir. TVA made a concerted effort to inform and encourage the public to participate in the development of the land management plan.

During February 1991 key contacts were made by TVA's Reservoir Lands Planning staff with local community cooperators, such as County Commission Chairmen. The goal was to encourage local officials and community leaders to attend one or more of six informational meetings held in each county. The purpose was to inform and encourage government officials; service and civic organizations; congressional field staffs; Chambers of Commerce; industrial, tourism, and commercial development groups; environmental groups; and other citizens to participate in the planning process for Wheeler Reservoir.

From March 5 to March 12, 1991, informational meetings were held in Decatur, Athens, Guntersville, Huntsville, Moulton, and Florence, Alabama. At each meeting TVA staff briefly described the upcoming planning effort as it related to future use of 11,284 acres (4,567 ha) of TVA public land around the reservoir. TVA staff attempted to explain the planning process and the importance of public involvement in development of a quality reservoir land management plan to the 85 participants. By taking this approach, TVA believed the public would be better informed at an early stage and would want to participate in one of the three public workshops scheduled for March 19, 20, and 21, 1991.

Media contacts and news releases were made available to five local TV stations, six radio stations, and seven area newspapers. In addition, TVA's planning staff initiated an extensive mailing campaign to invite, by personal letter, over 1,700 individuals, government officials, area special interest groups, and organizations, to attend the scheduled public workshops.

The focus was to provide information packages about the planning process and what each participant could expect at the workshops. By using these processes plus a mix of written invitations, public service announcements, media feature stories, letters about the project taken home by school children, and local constituent networks, TVA hoped for the maximum attendance and productivity at each workshop.

Public Workshops

In March 1991, as a result of the initial contacts, media coverage, and mass mailings in the reservoir area, 192 people attended three public workshops held in Athens, Huntsville, and Decatur, Alabama. The participants were asked (1) what they valued about the reservoir, (2) what should be improved, and (3) what types of shoreline development and land use they desired within the next ten years. The comments from all three workshops were compiled and returned to the public participants for confirmation on September 12, 1991.

The planning team attended each public workshop and used the compiled public comments, along with technical advice from TVA staffs, to develop the reservoir goals and management objectives described in the Planning Issues, Goals, and Objectives section of this plan. These objectives provided guidelines for the planning team's analysis of available information and their subsequent identification of appropriate land uses for the TVA land.

In addition to TVA, a number of other government agencies are also responsible for managing lands around Wheeler Reservoir. The planning team felt it was appropriate to meet with representatives of these agencies who were responsible for making land resource decisions. The planning team realized the importance of securing their ideas and concerns related to the reservoir land and associated resources. Agencies represented at the meeting were: Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS); Farm Service Agency (FSA); U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (Wheeler Refuge); U.S. Army (Redstone Arsenal); Alabama Department of Natural Resources, Division of Game and Fish (Alabama Game and Fish); Alabama State Parks Division; and local law enforcement agencies. Collectively, these agencies are responsible for managing over 79,000 acres (31,971 ha) of land adjacent to Wheeler Reservoir. In addition, TVA has stewardship responsibility for 11,284 acres (4,567 ha) of public land dispersed about the reservoir and its tributaries. The planning team asked the 18 participants two general questions:

1. From a resource manager's viewpoint, what are the top three reservoir issues that should be addressed over the next ten years?

2. From your agency's point of view, how would you like TVA to manage its land differently?

Responses to these questions and other comments and suggestions, combined with public input, were used in the development of Wheeler Land Management Plan goals and objectives.

Additionally, other regional planning organizations—including the North-Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments, Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments, Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments, and North Alabama Industrial Development Association—were interviewed. They provided pertinent information regarding

existing pressures on reservoir lands, future growth trends, and plans designed to meet projected land needs.

An important objective was to secure as much practical and analytical information as possible from as diverse an audience as possible. The planning team wanted to be familiar with citizen needs and desires, as well as public and private plans for the future of the Wheeler region.

Capability Analysis

In the first phase of a two-phase analysis, the planning team analyzed the ability of the reservoir lands to support various uses. TVA staffs provided the planning team with capability ratings of excellent, good, fair, or poor for every possible use on each tract of TVA land. The ratings were based on an analysis of specific criteria that indicated whether a tract was physically capable of supporting a given use. Capability criteria included various engineering and physical site characteristics of the land, such as slope, soil productivity, erosion potential, and access to navigable water. Appendix B, the Data Base Appendix, contains a description of the specific criteria and capability ratings for each proposed use.

Suitability Analysis and Tract Allocation

The second phase, a land use suitability analysis, is based on the capability ratings as well as other factors such as previous investments, interest by other agencies, TVA's objectives, and local or regional needs. TVA staff provided the planning team with maps exhibiting proposed uses for the TVA land. Along with the map, each staff provided a written narrative and land needs justification for every tract of TVA land requested by that staff. The planning team then compared a map of all the proposed uses with other maps and written justifications that identified existing resource data, such as wetlands, floodplain locations, threatened or endangered species, prime farmland, and historic or archaeological resource sites. In some cases the data showed obvious constraints or conflicts with proposed uses and such obvious unsuitable uses were eliminated. The planning team then analyzed the suitability of remaining potential uses by reviewing other information, such as the economic conditions of the reservoir area, the reservoir management objectives, public comment, and TVA land management goals and policies. Through debate and discussion, the planning team arrived at a consensus agreement and identified the most suitable use or uses for each tract of TVA land.

Review Process

After allocating each tract of land for one or more compatible uses, the planning team looked at the entire plan in terms of how it met the reservoir management goals and planning objectives. In areas where the planning team felt they had not met the objectives, adjustments were made to the plan. On tracts where uncertainty existed or there was specific conflict about appropriate use, the planning team made additional field inspections to ensure proper allocations. The plan was then reviewed within TVA and revised.

In October 1993 the revised plan was mailed to over 600 individuals, agencies, and organizations for their review. One hundred and twenty-one people participated in three public meetings held in Athens (November 30, Huntsville (December1), and Decatur (December 2) respectively. In addition, 49 individuals wrote TVA comment letters regarding the plan.

A compilation of all the comments received, along with the TVA staff responses, was prepared and mailed in May 1995 to all those who commented on the draft plan (see Appendix A). The responses included recommendations for changes to the plan based on the public input, review of the data base, and consideration of the reservoir management goals and objectives.

Decatur Boat Harbor, May 1973.

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Reservoir Existing Conditions And Regional Trends

Reservoir Existing Conditions and Regional Trends

The Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan will provide TVA guidance toward achieving a balance between development and protection of our natural resources, especially concerning the remaining 335 miles (539 km) of fee-owned shoreland located along TVA public lands. From the completion of construction in 1936 to the present, Wheeler Reservoir and adjoining land resources have met diverse social needs, and compromises have been made with each altered state of the landscape. Progress or change should not in itself be viewed as negative; it is paramount, however, that all levels of society (public and private) carefully plan for the future.

The following is a description of existing conditions and regional trends for Wheeler Reservoir as they were in 1990-1992 as the land management plan was being developed. Data was collected from sources within TVA, as well as from some outside sources. This information, combined with other resource data, has provided much of the data base used in preparation and development of this plan.

Economic Development

Six Alabama counties make up the Wheeler Land Use Area: Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan. Wheeler Dam is situated in both Lawrence and Lauderdale Counties, in the northwest corner of Alabama, approximately 214 miles (344 km) from Atlanta, Georgia; 257 miles (414 km) from Knoxville, Tennessee; 370 miles (595 km) from St. Louis, Missouri; and 170 miles (274 km) from Memphis, Tennessee. These counties have a combined land area of 3,861 square miles (10,000 sq km).

Industrial and Transportation Development

Industrial and economic development activities occur both adjacent to and in communities near the reservoir. These activities are enhanced by good highways, rail facilities, the availability of services, and a good land base for both waterfront and nonwaterfront facilities. The majority of the shoreline lies within Limestone, Madison, Lawrence, and Morgan Counties. Smaller portions of Wheeler Reservoir lie within eastern Lauderdale County and western Marshall County.

Major population centers are located at Huntsville in Madison County and Decatur in Morgan County. Smaller population centers are Athens (Limestone County), Hartselle (Morgan County), Madison (Madison County), and Moulton (Lawrence County).

The major highway corridor through the area is Interstate 65, which runs north-south through Limestone and Morgan Counties. A major interstate connector road is now completed between Interstate 65 and the city of Huntsville. The major east-west highways are U.S. Highway 72 between Huntsville and Florence on the north side of the reservoir, and U.S. Highway 72 Alternate between Decatur and Muscle Shoals on the reservoir's south side. Rail service is provided by CSX Transportation, which runs north-south through Limestone and Morgan Counties and connects the area with Nashville, Tennessee, and Birmingham, Alabama. The Norfolk Southern Railway System runs east-west through Madison, Limestone, Morgan, and Lawrence Counties and connects the area with Chattanooga and Memphis, Tennessee.

Based on cumulative private investment, there are 12 major concentrations of industrial development along the Tennessee River and its tributaries. In 1960 the Decatur area was fifth in cumulative private investment of eight areas where development had occurred at that time. Based on data for 1987, the Decatur area has had the highest rate of growth of any of the present 12 major concentrations and now has the largest cumulative private investment (more than $900 million) of any area along the Tennessee River (see Photograph K). The Calvert City, Kentucky, area (more than $700 million) and the Muscle Shoals, Alabama, area (approximately $675 million) are second and third. The Courtland area is the fourth largest concentration of investment (approximately $562 million) with most of these dollars being invested since 1960. To continue this trend, Lawrence County announced (September 1992) that Lockheed Missiles and Space Company will be locating a new $12 million assembly plant at the Courtland Industrial Air Park. Lockheed has secured a $689 million U.S. Army contract to design and build a new missile system, which will result in at least 200 new jobs.

The Decatur and Courtland areas combined have the highest cumulative private investment (approximately $1.25 billion), followed by the Muscle Shoals area with approximately $1 billion. Some examples of major private industrial investment are the HISPAN Corporation ($70 million) located at Decatur and the March 1989 expansion of the Champion International Paper Plant at Courtland ($475 million). Growth taking place at Decatur and Courtland makes Wheeler Reservoir the most significant of any TVA reservoir for industrial development, based on cumulative private investment.

Land along the reservoir is still available for commercial and industrial development. Examples are the Mallard-Fox Creek Riverfront Industrial Park and Port, and the Riverfront Industrial Park proposed by the city of Huntsville (Madison County). Development of the Riverfront Industrial Park had the highest priority for economic development for the city of Huntsville during 1989. These shoreline industrial parks will continue to increase the reservoir's desirability for future industrial use.

Nonwaterfront industrial development has also occurred on numerous sites and industrial parks in the communities along the main highways and railroad corridors along the reservoir. Major concentrations of nonwaterfront industrial development occur at Huntsville and Decatur, with smaller concentrations near the towns of Madison, Athens, Hartselle, Moulton, and Courtland.

K. Decatur waterfront--Decatur, Alabama, August 1967.

The Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce has identified six major concentrations of industrial development in Madison County. The acreage and employment for publicly owned industrial property within established industrial parks are:

Park Total	Acres/ha	Available Acres/ha	Employment
Cummings Research	3,600/1,457	475/192	15,200
Jetplex Industrial	1,550/627	360/146	6,340
Thornton Industrial	400/162	350/142	-
Lowe Industrial	900/364	0/0	5,850
Chase	1,300/526	750/304	2,020
Martin	-	-	380

The cost of the land within these industrial parks ranges from $18,500 per acre in the Chase Park to $55,000 an acre in the Jetplex Industrial Park.

The Morgan County Industrial Development Association has identified five industrial parks near the reservoir in Morgan County. They are:

Industrial Park	Employment
North Alabama	-
Ratliff	2,137
Central	210
Chamber of Commerce	329
Southfield	259

All the parks are full, with no land available for purchase, except for the North Alabama Industrial Park, which has 90 acres (36 ha) available.

The city of Hartselle, about 10 miles (16 km) south of the reservoir in Morgan County, has only one industrial park. That park has recently been expanded, and about 50 acres (20 ha) of land are available for industrial use.

The city of Athens, about 10 miles (16 km) north of the reservoir in Limestone County, has three industrial parks: the Athens Industrial Park, Breeding Industrial Park, and the Elm Industrial Park. The Athens and Breeding Parks are full with no land available. The recently built Elm Industrial Park has several sites available for development.

In a seven-county area north of the reservoir that is under the jurisdiction of the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG) Economic Development District, Madison County has become one of the fastest-growing areas in the South in the past four years. The aerospace boom of the early and mid-1960s, which many predicted would devastate the county when it collapsed in the late 1960s, has left the Huntsville area with a technology-oriented labor force and an entrenched body of national high-tech firms that were suitable for the late 1970s computer and electronics technology development phase. At present, this high-tech orientation has helped provide the basis for the award of many Space Development Initiative (SDI) contracts to Madison County firms, both local and international in nature.

The local manufacturing sector, which was the major recruitment and development thrust of the local Chamber and Development Association through the 1970s, has also matured into a regional employment market "backbone." This and its natural attributes and proximities have brought the Huntsville-Madison area to the forefront as a major regional trade and service center.

TARCOG continues to work with Madison County and the industrial community and has identified expansion plans to facilitate industrial growth south of the Huntsville/Madison area. Their long-range "Year 2000" planning study places considerable emphasis on industrial opportunities located along the northern shoreline of Wheeler Reservoir. A specific TARCOG proposal given consideration by FWS includes a major barge terminal and navigation canal located near the Swancott-Triana, Alabama, area. This and other public and private development proposals continue to place pressure on adjacent Wheeler Refuge lands. TVA, Redstone Arsenal, state and local park managers, and state wildlife management area managers are all confronted with growth pressures and changing land use patterns.

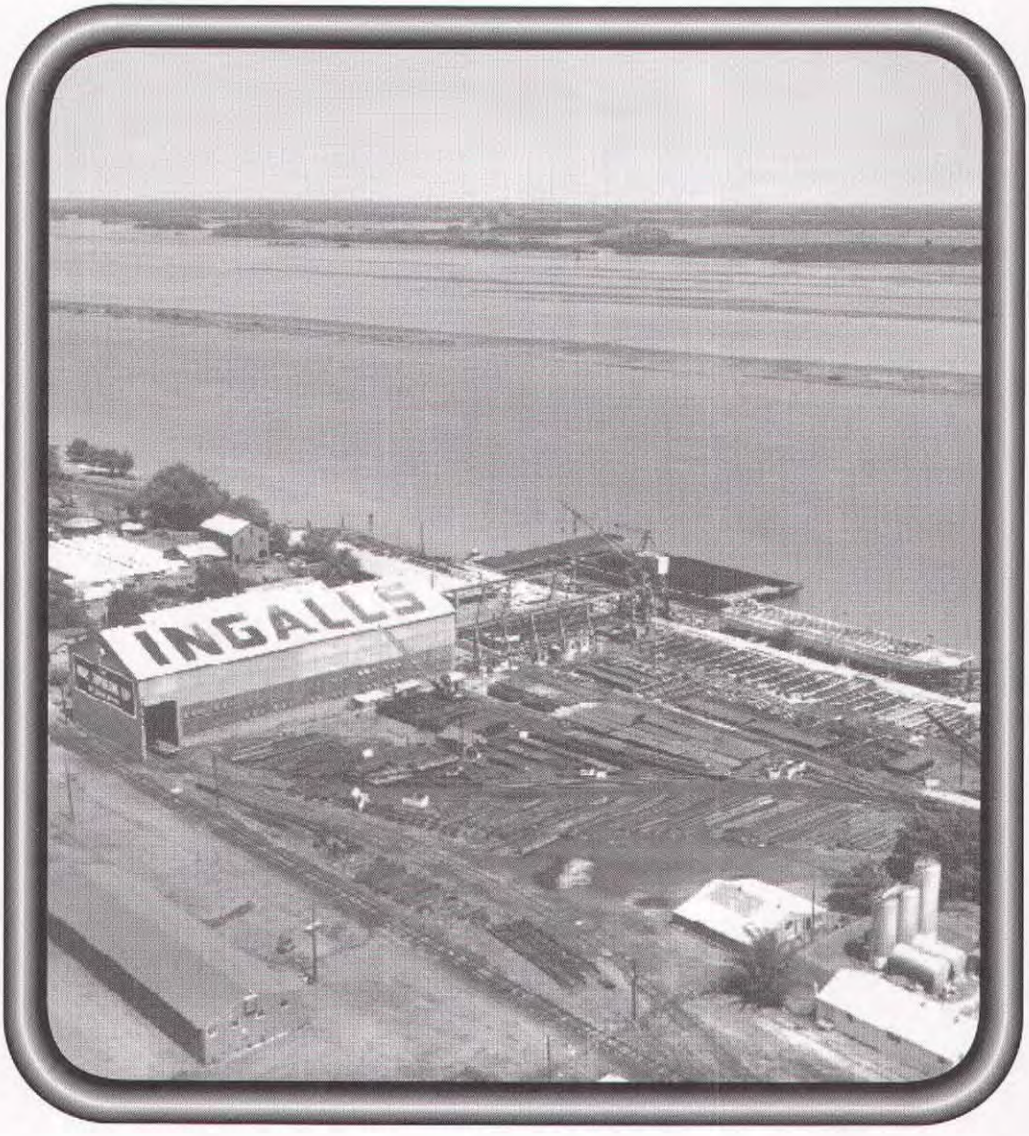
Federal government-related employment and earnings have lessened significantly in Madison County in proportional terms since the early 1960s, when an estimated three-quarters of the county's total personal income could be linked to National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Redstone Arsenal contracts. However, the federal government employment sector is still a major economic force in the area.

The North-Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) Economic Development District has jurisdiction in the area south of the reservoir. It recognizes the common social, economic, and geographic bounds that make the counties under its jurisdiction a logical, cohesive unit and sees the desirability of coordinating efforts to solve common economic, social, and cultural problems, which will help realize the tremendous potential that the district possesses.

The predominance of the city of Decatur makes it the choice as an Economic Development Center for the North Central Alabama District (see Photograph L). The presence and development of the city of Decatur can assist the target populations of the redevelopment areas to overcome their unemployment and low-income levels throughout the NARCOG District.

Decatur is the largest city in the NARCOG Economic Development District, and it is accessible from all parts of the district. The Decatur Economic Development Center (Center) is well served by both state and federal highways, connecting the center with such major urban centers as Huntsville, Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, and Birmingham. In addition, the NARCOG Economic Development District's outlying areas are linked by a well-maintained system of state highways, which facilitates efficient travel time between these areas and the Center. Decatur is important as a district job center. In both 1960 and 1970, Morgan County's in-commuting was greater than out-commuting. In 1980 Morgan County showed a net commuting figure of 2,512. The growth center also benefits from job creation in the surrounding counties and other municipal areas. This employment creates income that is often spent substantially within Decatur's trade area.

Decatur's economic influence is widespread, and any increase in its economic welfare could be felt over the entire district. Planned growth in the city of Decatur could substantially influence the economic well-being of the distressed populations in surrounding rural areas. The city



L. Ingall's shipyard--Decatur, Alabama, July 1955.

is a supporter of the extension of post-secondary education in the area as a tool to educate the local population and the major employers.

Cooperation between local governments, agencies, and groups is a major factor in bringing new and expanding industries into the county, the city, and the NARCOG District. Present assistance to existing industries with expansion plans is excellent, and these efforts are producing jobs and other tangible results.

Navigation Development

As a transportation artery, the river continues to be the most efficient and cheapest means of shipping large volumes of bulk products (grain, petrochemicals, steel products, wood, coal, and sand/gravel), reducing transportation costs for shippers and attracting high-wage industry to the area. Shippers (and consumers) save hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual transportation costs, and millions are invested in waterfront plants and terminals that provide thousands of high-wage jobs.

Wheeler Reservoir is an integral component of the Tennessee River's commercially navigable waterway that stretches from Paducah, Kentucky, to Knoxville, Tennessee. The waterway is part of the nation's 10,000 miles (16,090 km) of interconnected inland waterways, with access to the midwest and the Gulf Coast via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway provides an alternate and more direct access to the Gulf. Ports on Wheeler Reservoir have the capability to access markets in over 20 states.

Twenty-five barge terminals and one major fleeting area are located on Wheeler Reservoir. These facilities make it possible to access the water transportation benefits provided by the commercially navigable waterway. Included in the 25 terminals are 7 grain terminals, 4 public-use terminals, 3 terminals serving large petro-chemical companies, 2 terminals serving a major paper mill, and 1 serving a nuclear power plant.

Approximately 22 percent of the tonnage shipped on the Tennessee River system is shipped on Wheeler Reservoir. In 1990 (the last year official statistics are available), the Tennessee River carried 44.5 million tons; 9.7 million tons of which passed through Wheeler locks. Although in the ten-year period ending in 1990, tonnage through Wheeler locks has been cyclical, there has been an overall growth with an all-time high of 9.7 million tons in 1990 (see Photograph M).

Wheeler Reservoir plays a vital role as a transportation resource to industry located within the reservoir area and serves as a conduit for commodities passing through on their way up and down the Tennessee River. In 1990, Wheeler Reservoir terminals received (inbound) 2.5 million tons and shipped (outbound) 703 thousand tons. During the same period, 1.5 thousand tons were transported locally within Wheeler Reservoir. Most of the tonnage (6.7 million tons) shipped on the reservoir in 1990 were through-traffic shipments using the reservoir as a conduit. Approximately 5.1 million tons of the through-traffic moved up river to Guntersville, Chattanooga, and other destinations, while 1.6 million tons moved down river.

M. *Commerce on the River--New military vessel, constructed at Ingall's Iron Works, in lower section of Wheeler Lock, March 1944.*

Chemicals, coal, farm products, petroleum products, and stone products are the main commodities handled by Wheeler Reservoir terminals. These shipments have traditionally been the main commodities moved. In 1990 farm products, including fertilizer and vegetable oils, accounted for 1.6 million tons, or half of the tonnage handled at Wheeler Reservoir terminals.

The strong waterfront industrial base, excellent highway and rail systems, active industrial development organizations, and skilled area labor force are key factors that help support the terminals and help generate waterborne commodity movements. Large locks on the Tennessee River from Chattanooga downstream through Wheeler provide good, dependable access from terminals on the Tennessee River to terminals on the Inland Waterways system. However, the small-sized locks upstream at Chickamauga, Watts Bar, and Fort Loudoun Dams restrict movements on these reservoirs, which in turn lowers the potential for increased traffic on Wheeler Reservoir.

The volume of traffic on Wheeler Reservoir should continue to increase moderately well into the next century. Industrial growth should take place both within the reservoir area, upstream, and downstream from Wheeler Reservoir. Within the reservoir area, new developments at the Mallard-Fox Creek Riverport and Industrial Park; Decatur Transit, Inc.; and the proposed Huntsville-Madison County port near Triana, should generate additional inbound and outbound traffic.

Commodities shipped through Wheeler Reservoir could increase significantly, provided (1) larger locks are constructed at Chickamauga, Watts Bar, and/or Fort Loudoun Dam; (2) major new waterfront industries develop upstream on the upper Tennessee River system, and (3) new markets are stimulated by the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

The small locks at Chickamauga, Watts Bar, and Fort Loudoun Dams are 50 years old or older and were designed for a barge size no longer used on the Tennessee River. With the larger barges now in use (only one at a time can be locked through), these locks have practical capacities of 5 to 6 million tons compared to the 30 to 35 million tons of the larger downstream locks. Of the three locks, Chickamauga is the most vulnerable. It has the most traffic, both commercial and recreational, and has a major structural problem that will cause it to be closed at least 18 months for repairs around the turn of the century. Before traffic in the upstream portion of the system can significantly exceed 5 to 6 million tons, new locks will have to be built. Larger locks will significantly reduce transit time and lower the transportation rates, which in turn should attract additional traffic presently moving by truck or rail. It would also eliminate a major constraint to future waterfront industrial development upstream from Chattanooga. In order to find the best solution to these problems, TVA is conducting a feasibility study which consists of engineering, environmental, and economic benefit analyses for various solutions. The draft environmental impact statement for the project was completed September 1995 and sent to the public for review early in October. The economic cost benefit study is scheduled to be completed December 31, 1995.

Power Generating Facilities

Two power generating facilities, the Wheeler Dam Powerhouse (26 acres [11 ha]) and the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (829 acres [335 ha]), are located in the Wheeler Reservoir area. There are 29 TVA substations and 36 distributor-owned substations in the Wheeler service area. Portions of 55 transmission lines cross the area.

Construction of Wheeler Dam at Tennessee River mile 274.9 was begun in November 1933, and the first hydropowered unit went into commercial operation in November 1936. Wheeler is a concrete gravity dam which rises 72 feet (22 m) above its foundation. It is 6,342 feet long (1,933 m), and 1,188,400 cubic yards of concrete went into its construction. The Wheeler Dam Powerhouse contains 11 units, with a total capacity of 375,300 kw. (see Photograph N).

Wheeler Reservoir is 74.1 miles long (119 km), with 1,063 miles (1,710 km) of shoreline, and has 64,100 acres (25,941 ha) of water surface. Normal lake elevation is 556 feet (169.5 m), with a storage volume of 720,000 acre-feet of water, of which 351,000 acre-feet are considered useful storage.

Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFNP) is located 10 miles (16 km) southwest of Athens, Alabama, in Limestone County (see Photograph O). Construction of BFNP, TVA's first and largest nuclear power plant, began in 1967. There are three General Electric boiling water reactors at the plant, each rated at 1,098 megawatts. One unit can provide enough electricity to supply approximately 200,000 customers, or the number of homes in the North Alabama areas of Huntsville, Madison County, Decatur, and Athens.

BFNP's total generation capacity is 10 percent of the power generation capacity of the entire TVA generating system. Unit 1 began commercial operation in August 1974 and was the first nuclear-powered generating system in the world to produce more than 1,000 megawatts of electricity. Unit 2 began commercial operation in 1975 and Unit 3 in 1977.

TVA shut down the plant in March 1985 as part of a review of its nuclear power program. Unit 2 restarted in May 1991 after TVA completed one of the most extensive design review and plant modification projects in the nuclear industry. BFNP verified the quality of the work with a successful 75-day power ascension test program, before the unit resumed full power production in September 1991.

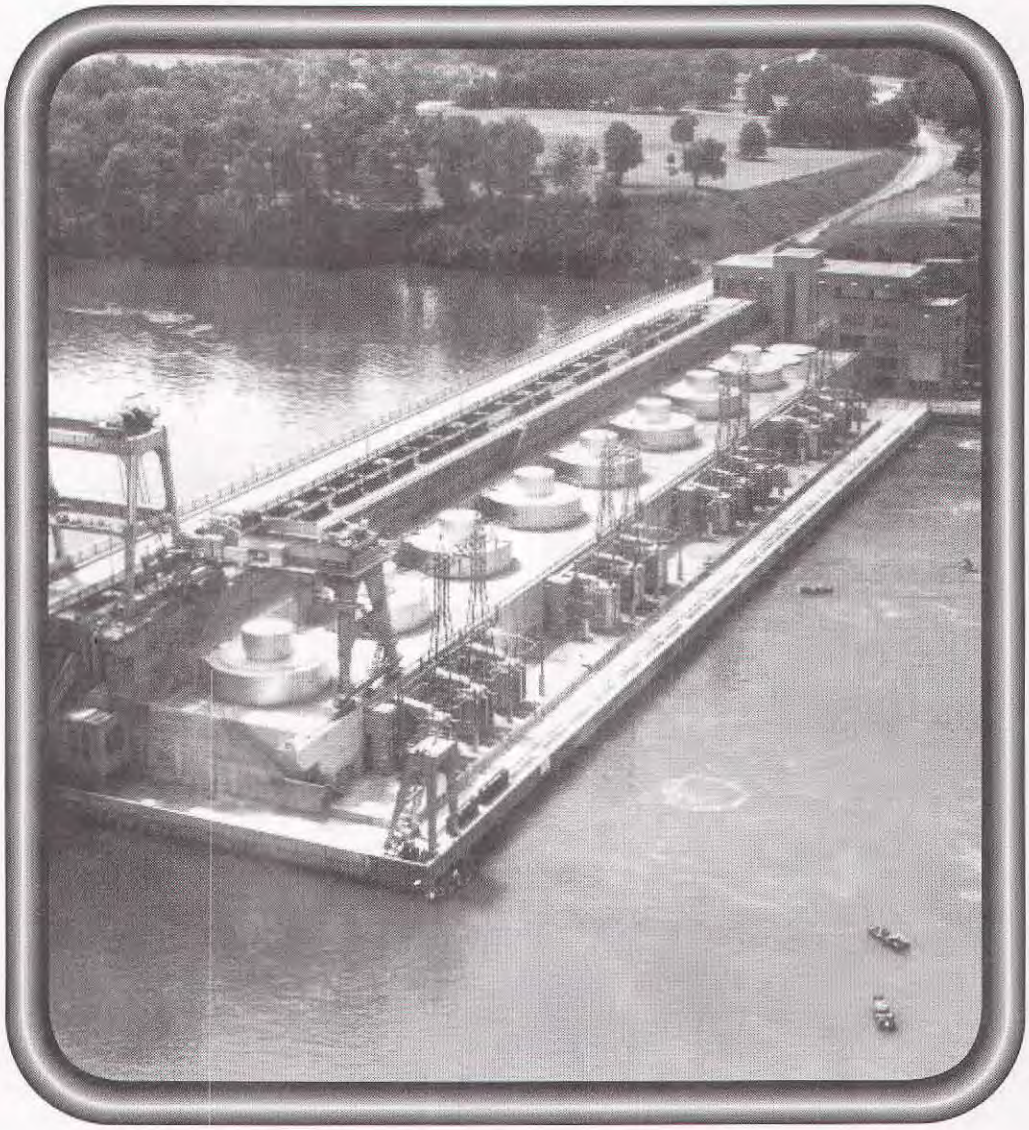
BFNP Unit 2 completed the TVA fiscal year in September 1992 with a capability factor of nearly 91 percent, compared to an industry average of about 75 percent. Unit 3 is the next unit scheduled for start-up, followed by Unit 1.

TVA directly serves five industrial customers in the Wheeler Reservoir area with a combined total contract demand of 425,600 kw. The Wheeler Reservoir land management area includes portions of the service territories of 12 distributors of TVA power. Each of these distributors were invited to participate in the Wheeler Reservoir lands planning process.

Recreation

Increased population and improved transportation routes appear to be the driving forces increasing demand on reservoir recreation facilities along the Tennessee River. The population of the six-county area around Wheeler Reservoir is projected to increase by 3 percent by the year 2000, greater than the rate for the state of Alabama. Madison County's population has doubled since 1960. Morgan and Limestone Counties have experienced a 17- and 15-percent growth in 1960 and 1990, respectively.

Marshall County has experienced growth similar to that of Limestone County, but this growth is less likely to have an impact on the reservoir. Some practical reasons for this are (1) there



N. *Hydro-electric power generation at Wheeler Dam, c. 1940.*

O. Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant with cooling tower in foreground, April 1978.

is only a short segment of the reservoir within the county; (2) the lake is narrow, and the current is more rapid within this segment; (3) population within this reach is widely dispersed; (4) there is no commercial recreation development on the lake; and (5) much of the property behind TVA's narrow strip of public land within the county is owned by private individuals, prohibiting legal access to the water for the public. For these and other reasons, many citizens of Marshall County seek opportunities for water recreation on TVA's Guntersville Reservoir.

The most dramatic increases in commercial development and residential construction appear to be taking place along the new I-565 corridor and U.S. Highway 72 in southern Limestone and western Madison Counties. With one of the highest per capita incomes in Alabama, Madison County is expected to present the greatest pressure on reservoir-related recreation facilities.

Because of public and private land ownership patterns, direct highway access to Wheeler Reservoir is relatively limited, especially on the upper end. U.S. Highways 72 and 72 Alternate (Alabama Highway 20) roughly parallel the reservoir on the north and south sides, respectively. U.S. Highway 31, running north-south, crosses the reservoir at Decatur, and Alabama Highway 101 crosses the reservoir at Wheeler Dam. Alabama Highway 67 passes through Wheeler Refuge south of Decatur and provides access to the reservoir via Flint Creek. Interstate 65 crosses the reservoir near Decatur but offers no direct access to the shoreline. Between U.S. Highway 231 and Guntersville Dam, the reservoir is relatively inaccessible except for small rural roads. Accordingly, the heaviest recreation use occurs near the access areas provided by these major highways: Highway 101 across Wheeler Dam and around Joe Wheeler State Park; Highway 31 area in Decatur, including Point Mallard; Highway 72 across the Elk River; and Highway 231 area, south of Huntsville.

TVA has collected very little reservoir recreation user data since 1978. Collecting such data is costly, and until recently, funding has not been available. Much of the demand data for recreation was derived from State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP) or general recreational trends as recommended in the "President's Commission Report on Americans Outdoors (1985)."

A new TVA initiative began in the spring of 1992. It is an effort to improve the quality and service offered at TVA's public recreation areas. Lake users are asked to complete and mail a brief comment card. The postage-paid card distributed at recreation areas contains a printed checklist evaluating the quality of experience, maintenance, and services offered at TVA recreational facilities. The first season, TVA received over 750 visitor comment cards. Some of the early information derived from this survey was used in this plan.

In order to obtain more recent data, TVA employed the Gallup Organization and Auburn University to develop, test, implement, and evaluate a statistically reliable public opinion survey sampling TVA's Valley customers. In August and September of 1992, TVA employees personally interviewed over 1,400 citizens at various TVA public recreation areas throughout the Tennessee Valley reservoir system. During the same period, Gallup contacted an additional 1,600 citizens by telephone and asked questions relating to TVA's management of its natural resources and public lands.

Examples of recreational-related questions asked are:

1. How do people use the lake and what activities do they enjoy most?

2. What is appealing or not appealing about each TVA reservoir?

3. What is the public's attitude regarding rules and regulations to control shoreline use and development?

4. What does the public think should be TVA's highest priority concerning the management of public reservoir land?

5. How does the public perceive the quality and maintenance of TVA recreational facilities?

6. Is TVA providing enough of the right kinds of public recreational development on its reservoirs?

Reservoir Recreation and Commercial Recreation Development

Wheeler Reservoir is ranked seventh among 34 TVA reservoirs in recreation visitor use. The reservoir's wide expanse makes it particularly suitable for boaters. Many protected bays, islands, and tributaries also make it attractive to fishermen and wildlife enthusiasts (see Photograph P).

The overall character of Wheeler Reservoir is dominated by a few highly significant areas: Joe Wheeler State Park (1,939 acres [785 ha]), Wheeler Refuge (34,500 acres [13,962 ha]), Redstone Arsenal (637 acres [258 ha] in recreation use), Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area, and Mallard-Fox Creek Management Area (3,045 and 1,616 land acres [1,232 and 654 ha], respectively). Smaller in size, yet important to the economy, is Point Mallard Park (423 acres [171 ha]).

There are four city parks, one county park, and five areas identified as state parks on the reservoir. The five state park areas, though listed separately, are all generally considered to be part of Joe Wheeler State Resort Park. Three TVA public use areas are heavily used. Also, USACE has two designated recreation areas that receive much activity but are not available to the general public. One area is designated for military employees and their families, the other for civilian employees and their families. Four recreation areas have been set aside by industries for use by their employees and their families; three are in the Decatur area; the other is between Decatur and Wheeler Dam.

In addition to parks and public use areas, lake access is provided by launching ramps at 1 city facility, 5 county facilities, 3 state park sites, 13 state game and fish facilities, 5 wildlife refuge facilities, and 5 TVA facilities. With the exception of the two ramps below Guntersville Dam and an unimproved ramp on the Flint River, all lake access areas are downstream of Hobbs Island, near Huntsville. The greatest concentration is in the Decatur, Joe Wheeler State Park, and Elk River areas. There are ten commonly known locations where the public has established informal launching sites on TVA public land. None of these

P. 25 lb. yellow catfish caught below Wheeler Dam, May 1950.

sites have improved ramp or parking facilities, and some have insufficient water depth or road access to launch trailered boats. Only light boats that can be carried to the shoreline can be launched at these sites.

Five private and five state/municipally-owned marinas or boat docks are commercially operated for public benefit on Wheeler Reservoir. The private operations are:

	River Mile
Elk River Mills Boat Dock	Elk 14.6L
Lucy's Branch Resort and Marina	TRM 286.8R
Mallard Creek Fish Camp Dock	TRM 293.0L
Jay's Landing	TRM 302.8L
Brick Yard Landing	TRM 303.6L

The state and municipal operations are:

Joe Wheeler State Resort Park and Marina	TRM 277.0R
Joe Wheeler State Park (Elk River Lodge Dock)	Elk 5.0L
Decatur Boat Harbor	TRM 305.0
Ditto Landing	TRM 333.4R
Madison County Boat Harbor	TRM 334.0R

The three major "full service" commercial operations are: Joe Wheeler State Resort Park and Marina, Lucy's Branch Resort and Marina, and Ditto Landing. Full service implies boat storage (wetslips and dry stack), swimming, lodging accommodations, food service, recreational vehicle (RV) camping sites, boat repair, gas, boat launching and parking, picnic facilities, and other related recreational opportunities (see Photograph Q). All three marina facilities primarily serve local users and are located on the north shore of the reservoir.

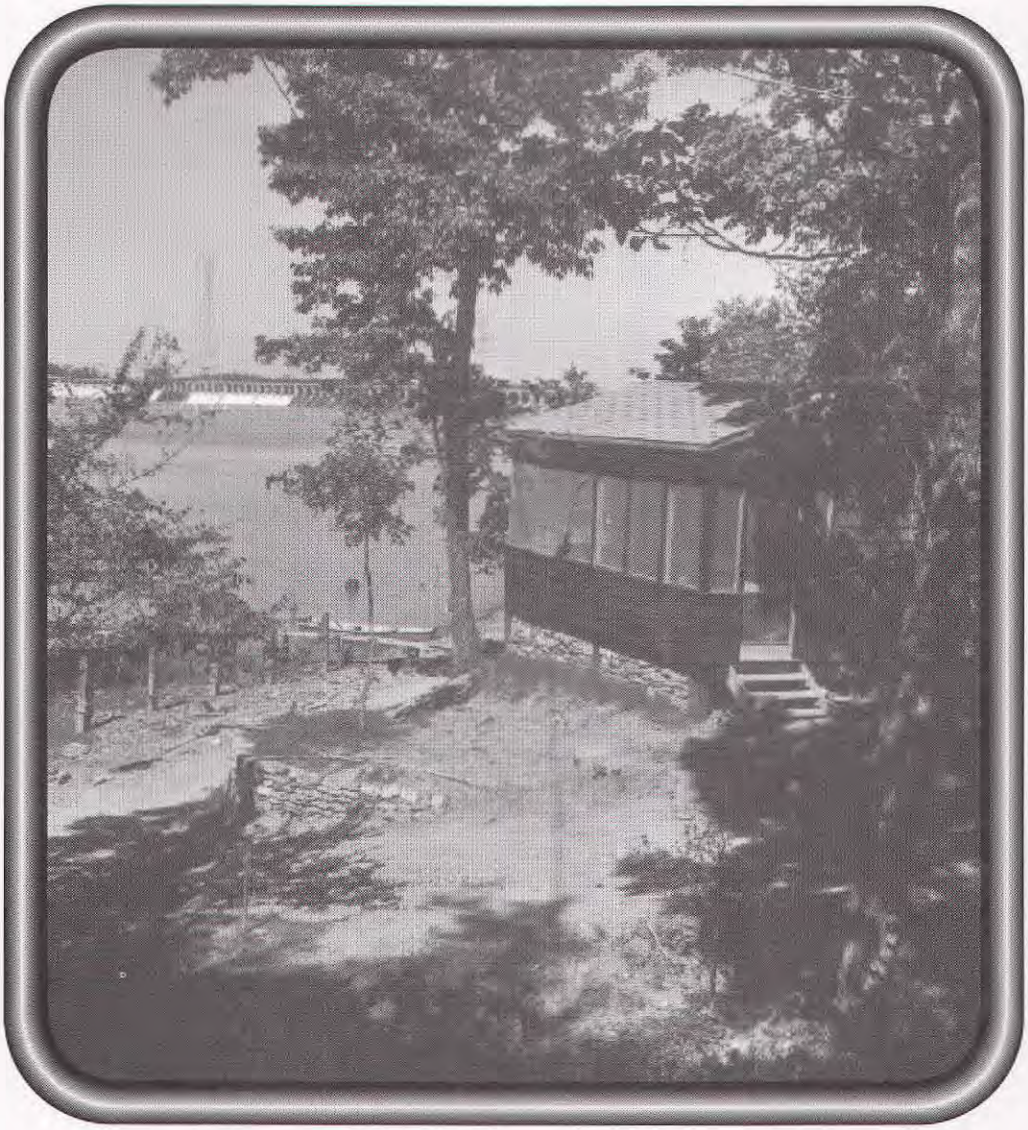
Wet and dry boat storage for smaller boats (less than 21 feet [6.4 m]) is nearing capacity at most of the docks and marinas located on Wheeler Reservoir. Marina operators have stated the current trend in the market appears to be increasing the mooring capacity for large cruisers in excess of 22 feet (6.7 m). The demand for covered wet slips for larger boats is greatly needed at all locations.

Twenty-nine informal recreation areas have been identified on TVA land. Although these areas have no facilities, and in many instances are relatively isolated, they receive considerable use with such activities as fishing, primitive camping, and other day-use activities.

Formal camping facilities are provided at nine locations, generally on the western end of the reservoir. These locations provide 610 campsites, each with water and electrical hookups and the majority with onsite wastewater disposal facilities.

River Recreation

Within the planning study area of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan, the tributary streams are quiet and meandering. The Elk, Flint, and Paint Rock Rivers and Cotaco, Flint, and West Flint Creeks are all characterized by slow-moving, calm water with mud bottoms



Q. Commercial recreation--Early fish camp with Wheeler Dam in background, September 1940.

and high mud banks. Anderson and Sugar Creeks have long pools interspersed with sandbars. Logjams and deadfalls are the major hazards to navigation on all streams in the study area.

With the exception of bridge crossings, there is relatively little development along the stream banks. The predominance of second-growth woodlands and small farms along the stream banks creates a sense of isolation and peace in areas quite close to urban populations.

Most Wheeler Reservoir tributaries are heavily fished. On developed and undeveloped lands, bank fishing is popular wherever access is permitted; however, with the exception of the Elk River, developed access is limited to boat ramps on lower stream reaches where the effects of impoundment are more pronounced.

Recreational use of rivers and streams is increasing rapidly. According to the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (Commission), dispersed recreation activities—canoeing, walking, boating, and bicycling—are some of the fastest-growing recreational pursuits. The Commission also found that we are losing available open space near water and on the fringes of fast-growing urban areas. Residential and commercial development is cutting off public access to rivers in urban areas. Because of existing use and anticipated levels of future use, all streams in the study area will need developed access areas in their upper reaches, particularly Flint, Cotaco, West Flint, Sugar, and Second Creeks and the Flint River. In addition, the Alabama SCORP reported a need for walking and hiking trails and developed picnic sites. It further emphasized the need to maintain the high-quality natural resource base in northern Alabama.

The centerpiece recommendation of the Commission report is that communities develop recreation corridors for hiking, jogging, wildlife movement, and horse and bicycle riding to connect parks, communities, and scenic countrysides. These greenways are local natural areas in which recreation and conservation are the primary values. According to the report, "Every town, city, or neighborhood can benefit by the addition of green sanctuaries for walks, running, horse and bicycle riding, and enjoying nature." In areas associated with rivers, greenways will also provide opportunities for bank and boat fishing, scenic enjoyment, and recreational boating. Demand for public lands to build greenways and to protect open space will increase within the study area. Locations with the highest demand will be those closest to the growing urban areas of Huntsville, Decatur, and Hartselle.

Recreation use of Wheeler Reservoir has increased dramatically. While some new public and commercial facilities have been developed to help keep pace with demand, pressure on undeveloped public lands, as evidenced by heavy informal recreation use, continues to increase. Given the trend in population in the surrounding communities, it is projected that Wheeler Reservoir will continue to play an increasingly important role in meeting existing and future outdoor recreation needs in the region.

Scenic Areas

Prior to the plan, no officially designated natural areas had been identified on the reservoir. However, areas do exist which represent outstanding geological features or scenic qualities and are suitable for passive recreation. Not all of these areas are located on TVA land, but some are located on lands managed by other state and federal agencies and may be protected under other programs.

Scenic areas on Wheeler Reservoir traditionally identified by TVA staff and lake users include the following:

TABLE V

SCENIC AREAS

Name	Location—River Mile
Second Creek Embayment	TRM 275.2R
Confluence of the Elk and Tennessee Rivers	TRM 285.0R
Shoreline at Long Oak Daybeacan	ELK 2.0 to 4.5L
Buzzard Roost Bluff	ELK 8.0R
Reach above River Mill Bridge to abandoned Fish Hatchery	ELK 15.0 to 25.0
Spring Creek Embayment	TRM 287.5L
Mallard Creek (west of highway bridge)	TRM 293.3L
Fox Creek Embayment	TRM 296.0L
Pryor Branch (Swan Creek WMA)	TRM 303.8R
Mid-to-lower reaches of Flint Creek including West Flint Creek	TRM 308.5L
Limestone Creek Embayment (Beaverdam Creek)	TRM 310.6R
Lehman Slough	TRM 314.0L
Lily Pond Slough	TRM 315.0L
Mid-to-lower reaches of Cotaco above Sharps Ford Bridge	TRM 319.0L
The Grindle Hole	Cotaco Creek 2.0
Watkins Bluff	TRM 319.4R
Lewis Bluff	TRM 325.2L
Bell Bluff	TRM 329.0R
Lehmans Bluff	TRM 329.9R
Mid-to-upper reaches of Flint River	TRM 339.0
Clark Bluff	TRM 342.7R
Paint Rock River	TRM 343.2R
Painted Bluff	TRM 344.8R
Shoal Creek	TRM 347.0L

There are also a number of noteworthy natural and scenic areas recognized by state and federal agencies and by private organizations located within those counties adjacent to Wheeler Reservoir.

Some of these areas include:

- Cathedral Caverns - Marshall County. A privately owned commercial cave, currently eligible as a National Natural Geological Landmark.

- Shelta Cave - Madison County, city of Huntsville. Owned by the National Speleological Society and open for scientific study.

- Bee Branch Scenic Area - Lawrence and Winston Counties. A part of the Sipsey wilderness within the Bankhead National Forest.

- Cave Mountain TVA Small Wild Area - Marshall County. A TVA natural area featuring spring wildflowers, a small saltpeter cave, and a 1-mile (1.61-km) loop trail.

- Newsome Sinks - Morgan County. Privately owned karst and botanical area.

- Beaverdam Creek Swamp - Limestone County. Located within Wheeler Refuge. A high-quality stand of tupelo gum.

- Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge - Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties. The region's wildlife and environmental showcase with interpretive center for many outdoor nature related activities.

As local population and development pressures increase, selected tracts of TVA land will become important for nature-related activities such as hiking, bird-watching, and observing wildflowers.

Resource Management

Reservoir properties, together with adjoining private lands, offer a wide range of integrated management opportunities. Resources that may be improved by proper management include agriculture, forestlands, wildlife, fisheries and aquatic resources, and cultural and historic sites.

Archaeology and History

Prehistory—In 1921 the National Research Council funded personnel from the Alabama Museum to conduct an archaeological survey of the locality that was to become Wheeler Reservoir. In 1934 archaeologists from TVA, using labor from the Civil Works Administration and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, conducted excavations on 19 of what were considered the most important sites. Through these excavations, and those conducted almost simultaneously for the Norris Reservoir on the Clinch River in East Tennessee, TVA developed and demonstrated the concept of salvage archaeology prior to reservoir construction.

Following the 1934 excavations, few systematic archaeological investigations were conducted at Wheeler Reservoir until the Department of the Army funded a survey of Redstone Arsenal in the mid-to late-1980s.

As with all reservoirs along the mainstream of the Tennessee River from Watts Bar to Kentucky, archaeological data indicate that the Wheeler Reservoir locality was important prehistorically to human beings, just as it is today. For the past 12,000 years, through changing climates and environmental conditions, the Tennessee River Valley has attracted human beings because of its system of water routes and a diversity of natural resources.

TVA and the University of Alabama have joined together to study past human cultures and their adaptation to the environment through time in the Wheeler Reservoir locality. Through a contract with TVA, the University's Division of Archaeology (DOA) undertook an archaeological field survey of TVA lands adjacent to Wheeler Reservoir. In March and April of 1989, DOA surveyed 1,600+ acres (648+ ha) of TVA fee-owned land. Under a second contract, the remaining 10,000+ acres (4,047+ ha) of TVA land adjacent to Wheeler Reservoir was surveyed during the late fall and winter of 1989/90 and 1990/91.

The data resulting from this current survey will provide evidence of the relative importance of Wheeler Reservoir, both prehistorically and historically, compared to other localities in the Tennessee River Valley and the cultural area of the Southeast.

History—A comprehensive survey of all existing significant structures or groups of structures, such as farm complexes or communities that were over 50 years old, was included in the inventory. Likewise, significant historic sites were also included in the Wheeler Reservoir inventory. Some of the historic sites may have been associated with a significant structure(s), while other sites were found to be associated with a historic event, such as a battle or treaty.

Two principal characteristics historically have had a great effect on the use of reservoir lands; one is topography and the other is population density. Three areas which reflect these characteristics are the metropolitan areas of Huntsville and Decatur and the Redstone Arsenal installation near Huntsville, Alabama. These three components have a major impact on reservoir lands because of their large area, large populations, and the intensity of related activities respective to each site. The remaining areas are, by contrast, sparsely populated and rural.

The topography includes flat, fertile, river bottomlands, rolling hills, and more rugged valley and mountain terrain. East of Huntsville the reservoir lands are mountainous, with the Tennessee River and tributaries flowing through deep valleys with steep, forested slopes. The limited, flat bottoms along the valleys are subject to repeated flooding. Population is sparse and limited to rural neighborhoods or small subsistence-type farms of low economic potential. Some older farms and farmhouses remain in the valleys, and these are representative of a span of time from early settlement in the first part of the nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. Typically, these are not respected as historic structures and are not maintained; some are vacant.

West of Huntsville the topography is relatively flat and the lands very fertile. Most of these lands are to the north of the Tennessee River, although there is one large area south of the reservoir near Huntsville. On the north side of the reservoir, fertile lands extend westward to just east of the Elk River. On the south side of the reservoir, rolling hills and knobs extend to Decatur from the one large, flat, fertile area below Huntsville. The remaining land west of Decatur on the south side of the reservoir consists of broad, fertile flatlands extending through Wilson Reservoir to Tuscumbia. On the north side of the reservoir from the Elk River west, the terrain is rolling hills, losing the fertility of those lands east of the Elk River.

There is still the remnant of a land aristocracy in these broad, fertile farmlands. A number of historic and plantation houses, carefully restored, are still obvious centers for large, prosperous agricultural farms with family ownership. Closely associated with these "individual ownership" plantations are small, historic communities which have experienced historic restoration of private structures by individual families. The most historically significant and the best preserved is Mooresville, just east of Decatur on the north side of the river; it is a historic district listed on the National Register. Other similar communities with preservation activities (though to a lesser extent) or with the potential for such are Wheeler, Courtland, and Town Creek.

A noticeable trend in these rural regions, one that has taken place in the past ten years, is the consolidation of family-owned farms into large mega-farms, presumably under corporate ownership. This is particularly true in areas west of Decatur on the south side of the reservoir, and this trend is having a negative impact on the cultural and historic buildings and landscapes. Many rural houses that until recently dotted the countryside have been removed; many of them dated from the early settlement period. Many farmhouses that stood even ten years ago are now indicated only by a chimney, a pile of rubble, or an aged yard tree. Fields and landscapes are changing, also. Field lines have been removed to create larger fields, and fence rows of trees have been cut down. Modern, industrial-type agricultural buildings are replacing traditional farm buildings.

The less prosperous rural regions, with poor soil, rolling hills, knobs, and mountainous areas, have changed the least over the past ten years. Change is taking place, nonetheless, but not because of economic prosperity; rather, it is from economic decline. These areas are poorer; families are moving to more prosperous areas for jobs. As a result, buildings, farms, and houses, many of historic interest, are abandoned. The people remaining are generally under economic strain and do not have the means to maintain historic houses, let alone restore them.

In the rural areas it appears there is little overall interest in preserving significant (historic) structures. There is the same disregard for preserving the rural and scenic landscapes. These qualities are fast disappearing, and if the trend continues, little will be left. In older sections of Huntsville and Decatur there are pockets of preservation of older structures. There are also numerous individual efforts where plantations, houses, and farms have been restored and their settings preserved. However, it may be too late for these to set the example and thus change the trend of disinterest and neglect, unless an organized effort is made to influence the region as a whole.

The Wheeler Reservoir area is historically significant at all levels. It was part of Cherokee Nation lands before the Cherokees were driven out on the "Trail of Tears." The area again attained national significance during the Civil War, when it was a major strategic area because of the railroad and the Tennessee River. The area was devastated by the war as Union forces sought control of these points. After the war, the region was slow to recover. TVA became a significant factor in the 1930s and 1940s, and the Redstone Arsenal was developed shortly thereafter.

Of particular significance are remnants of the pre-Civil War life-style, several historically significant plantations with intact agricultural lands, and several well-preserved planter communities. These few remnants are important nationally as a record of the South's early history.

The significant structures associated with the Wheeler Reservoir area are similar in type and number compared with those reservoirs surveyed on Chickamauga, Nickajack, Guntersville, Pickwick, and Kentucky Reservoirs. However, most of the sites inventoried as historic sites or significant structures are not located on TVA lands, but are found adjacent to these tracts. Therefore, the concern in many cases is for the protection of these historic features from adverse impacts that could result from a particular adjacent land use on TVA land. Adverse effects include noise and visual impact, air quality concerns, increased traffic, change of land use patterns, etc. The development of adjacent private land, where such cultural resources exist, can be directly influenced by how TVA uses, or allows others to use, its land. Through example, TVA can project responsible land stewardship to others by providing suitable buffer areas on its lands for the protection of historic features or sites. Even though the Wheeler Reservoir area does not have a large number of historic sites near its shorelands, those that survive are significant as illustrations of the history of the Tennessee Valley and the Nation.

Agriculture

Prime farmland is land that has high potential for the production of food, feed, forage, fiber, or oilseed crops, and that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for agricultural production. Prime farmland has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods of time. Compared to other TVA reservoirs, Wheeler Reservoir has as much or more prime farmland and land of state-wide importance as any reservoir in the system (see Photograph R). The reservoir, located in the Limestone Valley region of Alabama, has soils that are adapted to growing such high-value crops as cotton, corn, and soybeans.

In 1982 there were 7,928 farms in the six-county area, with product sales totaling $286.2 million, an increase of $43.2 million (not adjusted for inflation) since 1978. The number of farms and farm employees decreased over the same period. In 1982 land in farms totaled 1,269,743 acres (513,865 ha), representing a decrease of 70,689 acres (28,607 ha) from 1978. The average farm size decreased slightly, from 162 acres to 160 acres (66 ha to 65 ha), during the same period. Because of pressures for residential land use, the total land base in agricultural use will likely decrease by the year 2000. Two-thirds of area farmers are full-time farmers.

The major farm products sold are poultry products, soybeans, cotton, livestock, and dairy products. Sales from poultry products, livestock, and dairy products accounted for $156.7 million, or 55 percent, of the market value of the products sold in the six-county area. Poultry products accounted for 41.6 percent and livestock for 9.4 percent of the market value of products sold. Soybeans and cotton accounted for $90.5 million, or 32 percent, of products sold. The cattle industry is an important part of agriculture in this area, and in 1982 more than 190,000 head of cattle and calves were inventoried on farms in these six counties.

This six-county area accounts for about 17 percent of the market value of farm products sold in Alabama, and nearly 40 percent of that for products sold in the 16 counties in the Land and Water 201-county region. Sales from many of these farm products account for a large share of the market within the region and are necessary to feed a growing population whose life-styles are accustomed to such quality products.

R. Test demonstration Farmer and Assistant County Agent examine alfalfa field--Limestone County, Alabama, May 1950.

Like other industries, the agricultural industry has to make compromises and trade-offs in order to be competitive. For example, cotton and soybeans are the most important crops in the Wheeler Reservoir area, and some of the subwatersheds draining into Wheeler Reservoir are the most intensive row-cropped land in the state. Cropland erosion rates in the counties bordering Wheeler Reservoir range from 11 to 30 percent above the state average, and about 40 percent of the cropland in the area is eroding at a rate greater than twice the soil loss tolerance (the maximum rate of erosion that will permit high-level production economically and indefinitely).

Because of these high-erosion rates and the extensive use of pesticides and fertilizer on intensively row-cropped lands, the Tennessee River watershed has been identified by several sources as especially prone to water quality degradation from agricultural nonpoint sources. Several tributaries, including Piney Creek, Limestone Creek, Flint River, Beaverdam Creek, Round Island Creek, Swan Creek, and Paint Rock River are known to be affected by cropland erosion and animal waste runoff.[4]

Agricultural licensing—In 1988 TVA developed and implemented strategies for improved stewardship of TVA's agricultural lands. The principal objectives of this effort have been to (1) reduce or eliminate nonpoint source pollution resulting from agricultural operations on TVA lands, (2) prevent shoreline erosion and protect adjacent forestlands from grazing or agricultural abuses, and (3) improve the quality of wildlife habitat associated with these lands.

To achieve these objectives, a multidisciplinary Agricultural Lands Review (ALR) process was initiated in August of 1989. This approach requires that as each tract of TVA agricultural land becomes available for license renewal (generally every five years), it is carefully evaluated to ensure that appropriate BMPs and other stewardship requirements are integrated into the license as commitments (i.e., "Special License Provisions"). After licensing, these tracts are monitored on an annual basis to ensure licensee compliance. If licensees are found to be in noncompliance, their licenses are cancelled and the tracts are then made available to another individual. Through ALR, some tracts have been determined to be unsuitable for continued licensing and are therefore removed from the agricultural licensing program. These tracts are generally recommended by TVA for reforestation or open land management opportunities.

TVA has committed, on an interim basis, approximately 1,045 acres (423 ha) of TVA reservoir land within the six counties adjacent to Wheeler Reservoir. TVA has issued 9 licenses for row crops involving approximately 464 acres (188 ha) and 17 licenses totaling 581 acres (235 ha) for hay and pasture.

During the 1989 ALR, five former licenses (453 acres [183 ha]) were removed from the agricultural licensing program. Four of these tracts were recommended for open land management and one for reforestation.

[4] Water Resources Review: Wheeler Reservoir, Tennessee Valley Authority, Water Resources, Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 1990, page 5.

Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology

Wheeler Reservoir has a wide variety of aquatic habitats. Extensive shoreline and cover, shallow nursery areas, tributary streams, overbank, and riverine areas provide habitat for a variety of warm-water species and three cool-water species (sauger, walleye, and yellow perch). Most shoreline areas in Wheeler Reservoir below Decatur, Alabama, (Tennessee River mile 304) are suitable for spawning and serve as nursery areas for many fish species. Submersed aquatic plants (primarily Eurasian water milfoil and spinyleaf naiad) have expanded from less than 1,000 acres (405 ha) in the early 1980s to over 4,000 acres (1,619 ha) in 1992, creating "new" habitat cover for fish. The area from Tennessee River mile 304 up to Guntersville Dam, including several tributaries, provides spawning and nursery areas for several important species (sauger, buffalo, and white bass).

Three large tributaries, Paint Rock River (Tennessee River mile 343.3), Flint River (Tennessee River mile 339), and Elk River (Tennessee River mile 284), provide ideal spawning and nursery areas for a diversity of fish species. Smaller tributaries providing excellent spawning and nursery habitats are Flint Creek, Limestone Creek, First Creek, Cotaco Creek, and Second Creek. Elk River is also a prime sport-fishing area for largemouth bass, white crappie, and sunfish.

Aquatic life in Wheeler Reservoir has been characterized largely from studies conducted during and subsequent to the construction, licensing, and permitting of BFNP (Tennessee River mile 294). Baseline data include studies on plankton, fish, and benthic macroinvertebrates. Recent or ongoing studies on Wheeler Reservoir have been designed to measure fish standing stock, monitor water quality (TVA Vital Signs Program), and evaluate the impact of the commercial musseling industry on mussel populations. Studies were completed (1993-1994) to evaluate the possible effects of BFNP discharge on plankton and on the reproduction and movement of sauger.

Former records for plankton data indicated phytoplankton communities are dominated by Chrysophyta in winter and early spring, Chlorophyta in spring and early summer, and Cyanophyta in summer and autumn. Operational monitoring data from previous TVA studies show high numbers of Cyanophyta downstream from BFNP were identified as a possible concern. Data collected in the 1989-1991 Plankton Study and the Vital Signs Program indicated BFNP was not affecting the phytoplankton community downstream and found Wheeler Reservoir to be typical of a lower mainstream TVA reservoir. Dominant zooplanktors found in historical data were rotifers, cladocerans, and copepods.

Cove rotenone samples were collected annually from 1969 to 1991 to provide data on fish population levels and to monitor temporal patterns in abundance for certain important species. This data indicates a diverse stable fish population exists in Wheeler Reservoir with yearly fluctuations in both numbers and biomass (weight), primarily resulting from numbers of forage fish (shad) collected in the samples. Although significant fluctuations were observed in the abundance of shad between annual surveys, no distinct trends were observed for the three major categories of fish (game, commercial, and forage). Seventy-eight species of fish have been collected in the 1969-1991 rotenone samples, with numbers averaging 130,271 fish per acre and biomass 711 kg/ha.

As part of TVA's Vital Signs Program, the fish community in all mainstream reservoirs was evaluated based on measurements or metrics. Categories evaluated in the fish community monitoring include species richness and composition, trophic composition, reproductive composition, abundance, and fish health. Reservoirs were divided into three zones (inflow, transition, and forebay) for the evaluation. Wheeler Reservoir rated "good" in all three zones.

Wheeler Reservoir supports a diverse sport fishery. Species important to the Wheeler Reservoir sport fishery include large- and smallmouth bass, white and black crappie, bluegill, redcedar sunfish, and sauger. Creel census data was collected on Wheeler Reservoir below Limestone Creek (Tennessee River mile 310.7) from 1970 to 1978. White crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, and blue catfish were the primary species sought by fishermen in the study area. Fishing pressure was consistent 1971-1973 (averaging 449,466 hours per year), while in 1974-1978 effort varied as much as 65 percent from year to year. The estimated annual sport fishery harvest is 188,000 pounds (85,277 kg) and generates a maximum annual expenditure between $11,500,000 and $13,000,000. Numerous bass fishing tournaments are held each year on Wheeler Reservoir by local bass clubs; however, rotenone data show no depletion in largemouth bass population. The lowest annual density for largemouth bass in cove rotenone data since 1982 was 99 harvestable bass per acre, with an average count of 114 per acre in 1991. Sauger are found throughout Wheeler Reservoir; however, they usually are more abundant in the Guntersville Dam tailwaters, especially in winter and early spring.

Studies conducted 1985-1989 and 1990-1991 found BFNP's condenser cooling water discharge did not affect the spatial distribution and reproduction of sauger in Wheeler Reservoir. In the early 1950s, yellow perch were stocked in the upper Tennessee River by the Alabama Division of Game and Fish. Downstream movement of perch into the lower mainstream reservoirs has been documented by the state and TVA. In Wheeler Reservoir, the first collection of yellow perch in cove rotenone samples was in 1977 and since 1985 have averaged from 5.4 to 284.9 fish per acre. Alabama Division of Game and Fish has stocked over 600,000 striped bass and more than 2.5 million striped bass and white bass hybrid in Wheeler Reservoir to provide additional species for sport fishing. At present, both striped bass and the striped bass and white bass hybrid are not a significant component in sport fishery.

The estimated annual commercial harvest of fish from Wheeler Reservoir is 1,400,000 pounds (635,040 kg). Primary commercial species are smallmouth buffalo (932,000 pounds [422,755 kg]) and blue, channel, and flathead catfish (468,000 pounds [212,285 kg]). Other commercial species include carp, gar, and paddlefish. The estimated value of the annual commercial fish harvest from Wheeler is $510,000. A ban on interstate sale of fish harvested near the Indian Creek embayment has adversely impacted the commercial fishery. Levels of DDT (a colorless, odorless water-insoluble crystalline insecticide) higher than the 5 ppm allowed by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) were found in both catfish and buffalo. Remedial action designed to isolate the source of contamination was completed in 1990-1991; however, the ban on interstate sale of fish remains in effect as TVA and the state of Alabama continue evaluating fish flesh samples collected from the area.

Mussels are found throughout most of Wheeler Reservoir; however, species composition is more diverse upstream from Decatur, Alabama. The mussel beds are primarily in the old river channel and are more indicative of preimpoundment mussel populations. Collections

in the Guntersville tailwater in 1978 identified 23 species, including two species—pink mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*) and orange-footed pimpleback (*Plethobasus cooperianus*)—on the federal threatened and endangered species list and one species—Tennessee clubshell (*Pleurobema oviforme*)—listed as endangered by the state of Alabama. One other species, bullhead (*Plethobasus cyphyus*), is listed as a species of special concern by the state of Alabama. The upstream mussel beds have a higher percentage of adults with few young mussels, while mussel beds downstream from Decatur include stocks of many young specimens. In 1982 a limited survey near BFNP identified 16 species, with washboards (*Megalonaias nervosa*) and purple heel-splitter (*Potamilus alatus*) being the most abundant.

A mussel survey designed to evaluate the commercial mussel fishery in Wheeler Reservoir was conducted from July 1991 to June 1992. A total of 627 tons (570 MT.) of mussels representing 15 species was harvested by commercial musselers during the one-year study. Species harvested most frequently were washboards (*Megalonaias nervosa*), Ohio River pigtoe pearly (*Pleurobema cordatum*), and butterfly (*Ellipsaria lineolata*). The total estimated value of the commercial harvest of mussels was $2,119,921.

The commercial mussel fishery in Wheeler Reservoir is limited by two sanctuaries established by the Alabama Division of Game and Fish. A downstream sanctuary is located between Whitesburg Bridge (Tennessee river mile 333) and the upstream end of Hobbs Island (Tennessee River mile 347). The upstream sanctuary is located from Guntersville Dam (Tennessee River mile 349) downstream to the mouth of Shoal Creek (Tennessee River mile 347.1L). It is unlawful to take, or attempt to take, mussels from these protected areas.

Since 1990 toxicity testing has been conducted every six months to evaluate the effects of BFNP's condenser cooling water discharge on sensitive aquatic life. Toxicity testing also was conducted in 1990 and 1992 to evaluate reservoir sediments (porewater) near several wastewater outfalls at Decatur, Alabama. Results from all tests (fall 1990, spring 1992, summer 1992, and fall 1992) showed BFNP effluent was not toxic to the organisms; however, water from the plant intake located upstream did produce some minor negative responses. In 1990 reservoir sediments near several wastewater outfalls at Decatur, Alabama, were screened for toxicity, using juvenile paper pondshell (*Anodonta imbecillis*) mussels. Two locations (Dry Creek Embayment-Tennessee River mile 303.4 and Tennessee River mile 301.1) were found to be toxic to mussels and were the focus of a definitive study conducted in 1991. The 1991 test showed sediment samples at both sites containing high levels of un-ionized ammonia and were toxic to mussels at concentrations of 100, 50, and 25 percent.

From 1983 to 1988 there was more than a 12-fold increase in acreage of aquatic plants on Wheeler Reservoir. Aquatic macrophytes colonized 9,843 acres (3,983 ha) on Wheeler in 1988, which represents about 14 percent of the reservoir surface area. In 1992, aquatic macrophytes colonized about 4,400 acres (1,780 ha) or about 6 percent of the reservoir surface area. The decline from 1988 is primarily related to climate events that resulted in high flows and increased turbidities. The increase in aquatic macrophyte acreages from the early 1980s is primarily the result of the expansion of submersed species, such as Eurasian water milfoil and spinyleaf and southern naiads. In 1987, hydrilla was discovered on Wheeler Reservoir and potentially could become one of the dominant species of submersed plants on the reservoir.

Submersed aquatic macrophytes such as Eurasian water milfoil and naiads are most abundant in shallow embayments and overbank habitats from Tennessee River mile 313 downstream to Tennessee River mile 292. Emergent species, primarily American lotus, are most abundant in shallow embayments such as Flint Creek and Swan Creek. Herbicide treatments have been used to control aquatic plants in areas (e.g., high-priority areas) where they conflict with reservoir use. High-priority areas generally include areas around commercial marinas, public use areas, campgrounds and resorts, residences, industrial raw-water intakes, and areas with dense aquatic plant infestations associated with high mosquito production. While herbicide treatments are effective on a localized and short-term basis, repetitive treatments are required and do not provide a long-range solution to macrophyte problems. TVA will be phasing out of the chemical herbicide treatment business by 1998. Treatment responsibility will be coordinated with local land owners to implement aquatic plant control through the use of licensed private contractors. The majority of priority treatment areas on Wheeler Reservoir are along the right shoreline from the mouth of the Elk River (Tennessee River mile 284) downstream to Joe Wheeler State Park (Tennessee River mile 277), Mallard Creek embayment (Tennessee River miles 292 to 294), the right shoreline from BFNP (Tennessee River mile 294) downstream to Tennessee River mile 289, and in the Decatur area (Tennessee River miles 300 to 309). Approximately 250 herbicide acre-treatments were applied in 1988 to achieve control in priority treatment areas. Because of declines in aquatic plants during recent years, no herbicide treatment was made on Wheeler Reservoir during 1990, 1991, and 1992.

In terms of total acreage of aquatic macrophytes on TVA reservoirs, Wheeler Reservoir is exceeded only by Guntersville Reservoir. However, because of the lack of development along Wheeler's shoreline, the level of herbicide control required to reduce aquatic plants in priority areas is not as great as that generally required in Guntersville, Chickamauga, and Kentucky Reservoirs.

Aquatic plants likely will continue to cause problems in some areas of Wheeler Reservoir and will require maintenance control measures in priority areas. The yearly coverage level will fluctuate with environmental conditions and is expected to vary from 3,000 to 10,000 acres (1,214 to 4,047 ha). Hydrilla could expand into priority treatment areas and require greater resource allocations to maintain acceptable levels of control.

Population levels of permanent pool species of mosquitoes are monitored weekly during the summer at specific sites on Wheeler Reservoir, using data obtained by the standard dipping technique for larvae and by the diurnal resting station method for adults. *Anopheles punctipennis*, *Anopheles quadrimaculatus*, and *Culex erraticus* are the dominant species recorded in larval and adult samples. Primary larval habitat is located within submersed aquatic vegetation. There has been a significant increase in mosquito production since the expansion of submersed aquatic macrophytes in Wheeler Reservoir which began in the early 1980s. The average number of anopheline larvae over the past four-year period was 0.70 larvae per dip, and the average number of adult *Anopheles quadrimaculatus* per inspection was 56.1. Insecticidal applications are required whenever the larval index exceeds 0.25 larvae per dip or 15 adult females per inspection.

In addition to the permanent pool mosquito species associated with the reservoir, a large portion of the reservoir floodplain is productive for floodwater mosquito species. This group of mosquitoes generally deposits eggs on the damp soil in grassy or wooded depressions

of the floodplain that are intermittently flooded. Primary species of concern are *Aedes vexans* and *Aedes sticticus*. Most of the major permanent pool and floodwater mosquito habitats are found from Tennessee River mile 291.0 upstream to Tennessee River mile 320.0, and along several tributaries, e.g., Elk River, Flint Creek, Beaverdam Creek, and Cotaco Creek. Significant habitat areas are also associated with portions of the Wheeler Refuge. Major methods of mosquito control consist of mechanical control of marginal vegetation, drainage maintenance, water-level management, and insecticide applications (larvicidal and adulticidal).

When compared to other TVA reservoirs, Wheeler ranks about third in severity of mosquito problems, and in comparison with other mosquito breeding areas outside of TVA that fall under the jurisdiction of abatement programs, it would be considered to have a significant problem.

Mosquitoes will continue to be a problem in many areas of Wheeler Reservoir, and they will require continuing control measures, especially if aquatic plant infestations increase in populated and developed portions of the reservoir. Also, if no changes in the present water-level management scheme are considered, mosquito production will certainly increase, resulting in increased numbers of complaints as larger numbers of lake user groups are affected.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Several plant and animal species listed by the federal government or by the state of Alabama as endangered, threatened, or special concern, or as candidate species for federal listing, have been reported from the Wheeler Reservoir study area. Only those listed by the federal government are legally protected. The other species do not have legal protection but were determined to deserve state listing by participants in a 1983 state-sponsored symposium. A discussion of all listed species, including their recent population trends and management needs in the study area, follows.

Animal Species

- Alabama blind cave shrimp (*Palaemonias alabamae*) - This cave dwelling species is known from only two localities, both in the Wheeler Reservoir Planning area. It is listed as special concern by the state of Alabama and as endangered by the federal government. It is known from Shelta Cave in downtown Huntsville and Bobcat Cave on the Redstone Arsenal reservation.

- Boulder darter (*Etheostoma wapiti*) - This species, currently listed as endangered by the federal government, occurs only in the unimpounded portion of the Elk River below Tims Ford Dam and a few of its tributaries. It inhabits sandbar areas with a substrate of large boulders and occurs in the Elk River as far downstream as river mile 29.5.

- Eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*) - This large salamander inhabits swift, medium-to-large-sized, clear streams. It is considered threatened in the state of Alabama and is a Category 2 candidate for federal listing. Populations have declined due to impoundment and water pollution. Within the study area, this species has been reported from Bakers Creek, west of Decatur, and from Guntersville Dam tailwater, although the tailwater is a typical habitat. Hellbenders also occur in the upper reaches of the Flint River system.

- Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) - Because of a recent drastic decline in numbers throughout its range, this species was listed in 1976 by FWS as endangered. The species occupies caves throughout the year and has declined due to intentional and unintentional human disturbance, modification of caves, and pollution or other modifications of its over-water foraging habitat. A detailed discussion of population trends and reasons for decline is found in the Gray Bat Recovery Plan.[5]

  The gray bat population in the study area was probably negatively impacted by contamination from DDT and its metabolites. Recent efforts to eliminate the major source of this pollution in the Indian Creek/Huntsville Spring Branch area should be beneficial to the area's gray bat population.

  Major gray bat populations in the study area are known from three caves. Davis Bat Cave, located along Second Creek in Joe Wheeler State Park, is inhabited by a maternity colony of over 11,000 bats; Indian Cave, located at Elkmont Rural Village about 1 1/4 miles (2.01 km) east of the former Elk River Fish Hatchery, is inhabited by a maternity colony of over 3,000 bats; and Cave Springs Cave, located on Wheeler Refuge, is inhabited by a maternity colony of between 30,000 and 37,000 bats. As a probable result of pesticide cleanup and protection from human disturbance, the population in Cave Springs Cave has increased in recent years.

  Other caves in the Wheeler Reservoir area inhabited by smaller colonies of gray bats, or for which no recent survey information is available, include Blowing Springs Cave, Talucah Cave, King Springs Cave, Hughes Cave, and Old Blowing Cave.

- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) - This federally listed endangered species roosts during the summer under slabs of tree bark, often in riparian areas (see Glossary), and hibernates during the winter in caves. A small hibernating population reportedly uses Hughes Cave in Morgan County. Wheeler Reservoir is near the southern edge of the species' summer range, but there are no summer records from the area. However, it is likely that transient Indiana bats visit the study area.

- Orange-footed pimpleback (*Plethobasus cooperianus*) - This species also inhabits large rivers, especially in areas with cobble and gravel substrates. It is listed as endangered by both the federal government and state of Alabama. In Wheeler Reservoir it is known from one site in the channel of the Tennessee River upstream of Decatur, and from the Tennessee River just below Guntersville Dam.

- Palezone shiner (*Notropis sp.*) - This undescribed species of fish is restricted to gravelly pool areas in smaller streams. It occurs in the Paint Rock River and one other river outside the Wheeler area. It is listed as threatened in Alabama and was federally listed as endangered in 1993.

[5] The Gray Bat Recovery Plan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Gray Bat Recovery Team, p. 8, July 1982.

- Pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis abrupta*) - This inhabitant of large rivers is listed as endangered by both the federal government and state of Alabama. It usually inhabits areas with cobble and gravel substrates and is known in Wheeler Reservoir from scattered sites in the channel of the Tennessee River upstream of Decatur, and from the lower Paint Rock River.

- Pocketbook mussel (*Lampsilis ovata*) - The pocketbook occurs in cobble and gravel substrates within larger rivers throughout much of the Ohio River basin. It has been found in the riverine portion of Wheeler Reservoir, upstream from the U.S. Route 231 (Clay) bridge. This mussel species was considered endangered in Alabama during a 1976 symposium but is not legally protected by the state or federal government.

- Rough pigtoe pearly mussel (*Pleurobema plenum*) - Like the other three aquatic mussels, the rough pigtoe pearly mussel is listed as endangered by both the federal government and state of Alabama. It inhabits large rivers in areas with cobble and gravel substrates and is known in Wheeler Reservoir from sites in the channel of the Tennessee River upstream from Decatur.

- Slackwater darter (*Etheostoma boschungi*) - The slackwater darter is listed as threatened by both the federal government and state of Alabama. It prefers smaller streams and appears to be restricted by its use of flooded pastures as breeding sites. In the Wheeler Reservoir area it is known from Swan Creek near Athens.

- Snail darter (*Percina tanasi*) - Snail darters have been found in the Paint Rock River, and young of this species are known to drift downstream into the Tennessee River during their first summer. Adults return to gravel shoals in tributary streams each year to spawn. It is listed as threatened by both the federal government and state of Alabama.

- Southeastern myotis (*Myotis austroriparius*) - This species of bat is listed as special concern in Alabama and is a Category 2 candidate for federal listing. Wheeler Reservoir is near the northern edge of its range, and the species has been reported from Talucah Cave. However, there is no recent information on the status of the southeastern myotis in the study area.

- Southern cavefish (*Typhlichthys subterraneus*) - This small fish inhabits pools and lakes in limestone cave systems. Although it is fairly widespread in the Tennessee River drainage in Alabama, populations are typically small and vulnerable to ground water pollution, vandalism, and other disturbances to caves. It is listed as a special concern in Alabama. Populations are reported from caves on Wheeler Refuge and Redstone Arsenal, as well as from Davis Bat Cave at Joe Wheeler State Park and Anvil Cave on TVA reservoir lands.

- Spring pygmy sunfish (*Elassoma sp.*) - The total range of this small sunfish is within the Tennessee River drainage in Limestone County, Alabama, where it is known from only three localities. Two of these populations occur within the Wheeler Reservoir study area. The species has been extirpated from the locality outside the study area. An existing population occurs in Beaverdam Spring, also known as Moss Spring Run, located west of Madison and north of U.S. Highway 72A. This population is receiving limited protection through a memorandum of understanding between the property owners, FWS, and the state of Alabama. The other population in the Wheeler Reservoir study area occurs in Pryor Spring, located along U.S. Highway 31 near Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area. This population was extirpated, but the species has recently been reintroduced. The spring pygmy sunfish inhabits springs and spring runs with relatively clear water, little current, and moderately dense aquatic vegetation. It is listed as endangered in Alabama and is a Category 1 candidate for federal listing.

- Tennessee cave salamander (*Gyrinophilus palleucus*) - This salamander, found only in cave streams, is listed as a Category 2 candidate for federal listing, and its status in Alabama is not well known. Caves in the study area supporting populations of this species include Robinson Sinks Cave near Sugar Creek, Rockhouse Cave on Wheeler Refuge, and Shelta Cave in downtown Huntsville, Alabama. Tennessee cave salamanders have not been reported from caves on TVA lands in the area.

- Tuscumbia darter (*Etheostoma Tuscumbia*) - This species is known only from the Tennessee River drainage of northern Alabama, and most populations occur in the Wheeler Reservoir area. It is listed as special concern by the state of Alabama and is a Category 2 candidate for federal listing. Tuscumbia darters inhabit springs and spring runs, usually with dense growth of aquatic vegetation. Populations are localized, and several have been extirpated by impoundments and other modification of springs. Within the study area, it has been reported from TVA lands, private lands, and from Wheeler Refuge.

Plant Species

- Alabama snow-wreath (*Neviusia alabamensis*) - This shrubby member of the rose family is listed as endangered in Alabama and is currently under review for federal listing. It is restricted to a few populations in Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee where it normally grows on steep bluffs along rivers or streams. The single documented population on Wheeler Reservoir is located on TVA land. In addition, there is a literature report of the species from the Beaverdam Creek Swamp area of Wheeler Refuge.

- Butler quillwort (*Isoetes butleri*) - These plants, listed as special concern in Alabama, have no structures above ground other than leaves. The leaves look like 3- to 8-inch tall pine needles and are frequently overlooked. The species is usually associated with limestone outcrops, and the single population reported from the Wheeler Reservoir study area is not on TVA property.

- Climbing bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) - This vine, listed as special concern in Alabama, normally occurs on wooded bluffs. Populations in Alabama are rare and occupy the southern portion of the species range. Climbing bittersweet is being eliminated at sites where it is competing with the introduced oriental bittersweet (*C. orbiculatus*).

- Duck River bladderpod (*Lesquerella densipila*) - This herbaceous mustard is listed as endangered in Alabama and is under review for federal listing. It occurs on limestone outcrops, often spreading into adjacent agricultural fields. In addition to Lawrence, Limestone, and Morgan Counties in Alabama, it is also known from a few counties in Middle Tennessee.

- False foxglove (*Aureolaria patula*) - This member of the snapdragon family is a Category 1 candidate for federal listing and currently awaiting the listing process. Previously known only from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Georgia, it was discovered in Alabama by TVA staff doing fieldwork in support of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan in August 1988. No plants were observed on TVA lands. The species is found on dry limestone bluffs or slopes where plants can receive full sun or slight shade. False foxglove is a root parasite, deriving its nutrition through attachment to tree roots.

- Pale green orchid (*Platanthera flava*) - This orchid is listed as threatened in Alabama and is a Category 3C candidate for federal listing. This means that after reviewing its status, the FWS determined the species too widespread for federal listing. The pale green orchid occurs in bottomland forests and along creeks in the southeastern United States, but nowhere is it abundant.

- Quillwort (*Isoetes engelmannii*) - *Isoetes engelmannii* is listed as special concern in Alabama. It ranges from Florida and Alabama, north to New York and Illinois, and is usually found in muddy situations at the edges of pools, ponds, or ditches. It is difficult to locate in the field (see *Isoetes butleri* above), and more populations probably exist than are currently documented.

- Rosinweed (*Silphium brachiatum*) - This sunflower is listed as threatened in Alabama, and is a Category 2 candidate for federal listing. Wheeler Reservoir is near the southern edge of its range. The species is known from TVA lands only at Clarks Bluff. It occurs on dry limestone slopes and is usually associated with openings in the forest canopy.

- Smoketree (*Cotinus obovatus*) - This small tree is listed as special concern in Alabama. Wheeler Reservoir is near the southeastern edge of its range. The species occurs on dry limestone slopes and bluffs. Smoketree is known from one tract of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir and one non-TVA tract within the study area.

- Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) - This species of shrub or small tree is listed as special concern in Alabama and occurs on rocky, well-drained sites. It is rare in Alabama but fairly abundant northward from Kentucky to Canada.

- Toadshade (*Trillium sessile*) - This species is listed as special concern in Alabama and is known only from Limestone County. It occurs in several counties in Middle Tennessee and becomes fairly abundant northward.

- Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*) - The natural range of this shrub, listed as special concern in Alabama, is from Canada south to southeastern Virginia, Tennessee, and northern Alabama. Historically, seven populations have been reported for Alabama, but because of poor locality information, four have never been relocated. The species is known from rich woods, usually associated with limestone bluffs.

- Water speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*) - This low-growing herb is listed as special concern in Alabama, where it reaches the southern limits of its range. It normally occurs along calcareous streams, springs, or seeps. The single population reported from the study area occurs on private property.

- Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) - This tree species is listed as special concern in Alabama. Following extensive review by FWS, it is no longer under consideration for federal listing. Yellowwood is uncommon throughout its range. Typically 5 to 20 trees make up a population, with the nearest adjacent population 20 to 100 miles (32 km to 161 km) away. Populations occur on rocky soils and are often associated with limestone bluffs or outcrops. The species occurs on two tracts of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir and on three non-TVA owned sites within the study area.

Forestry

The mission of TVA Forestry is to "manage TVA forested lands through sound biological and economic practices to perpetuate a healthy and diverse forest environment for forest resources production and protection." The forest tracts on Wheeler Reservoir also provide opportunities for increased public awareness, education, and understanding of the role forest management plays in the environment and economy.

Forested TVA properties are currently being managed on a ten-year cycle. Each year approximately 10 percent of the forestland is examined by a procedure that consists of field inspection, data analysis, and development of management recommendations. These recommendations are then submitted to a multidisciplinary team which approves, modifies, or rejects the proposed actions. The more important approved actions are then implemented. Only a small percentage of the actions is actually implemented, because of funding constraints. Forestry tracts on Wheeler Reservoir have been incorporated into this procedure. The recent concerns for water quality in the Tennessee River watershed are being addressed by TVA Forestry with revised guidelines for BMPs for forestry activities. The BMPs incorporate parts of the various Valley states' guidelines to provide the most comprehensive set of guidelines available. Implementation of these will insure that forestry operations on TVA lands are effecting minimal nonpoint source pollution.

Since 1982 TVA Forestry has inventoried forested properties on Wheeler Reservoir. These inventories include 8,323 acres (3,368 ha) that are addressed in this plan. The forest resource on these acres can be summarized as follows:

• Hardwood	65 percent	5,396 acres (2,184 ha)
• Pine	27 percent	2,229 acres (902 ha)
• Mixed	8 percent	698 acres (282 ha)

Although a variety of site quality conditions occur on Wheeler Reservoir, over 75 percent of the forestland can be considered medium- to-high quality. The area from Huntsville downstream is in the Limestone Plateau Province and has soils derived from the "Highland Rim" area. Most of these soils are noncherty limestone soils and alluvial soils characterized by silt loam topsoils and clay subsoils. Upstream from Huntsville is part of the Cumberland Plateau Province where soils are typically sandy loam topsoil over sandy clay subsoil. Soil productivity of both provinces is influenced by physical factors, such as slope position, aspect, and previous land use. The high percentage of good sites on Wheeler Reservoir can be attributed to the large acreage that is situated on minor and major river bottoms of high productivity and good drainage. Site quality is one of the most important elements of forest development; species composition, growth rate, tree quality, density, and other aspects can be directly attributed to this one element.

The Wheeler Reservoir forest resource contains about 6,094 acres (2,466 ha) of hardwood and mixed pine hardwood. This includes several species groups that can generally be separated by site preference. Bottomland hardwood, totaling over 4,060 acres (1,643 ha), is by far the most prevalent group on Wheeler Reservoir due to the extensive areas that have suitable site conditions—rich, moist river bottoms. Species that are recognized as bottomland hardwood are sweetgum, oaks (cherrybark, water, willow, and overcup), green ash, red maple, sycamore, and others. The most valuable commercial species are cherrybark and willow oaks, green ash, and black walnut. On good sites these trees can attain a merchantable size in 40 to 50 years but typically will remain healthy and continue favorable growth up to age 80 to 100. An analysis of the present age structure shows that about 85 percent of the bottomland hardwood is well distributed between ages 30 and 80. High-quality sawtimber and veneer logs produced by superior, large sawtimber trees represent the most valuable timber resource on Wheeler Reservoir. Stands of lower quality and less desirable species, however, are capable of producing common sawtimber and pulpwood products.

The remaining hardwood resource on Wheeler Reservoir is composed of mixed and upland hardwoods, which occupy about 1,336 acres (541 ha). Upland hardwood generally includes oaks (white, black, and southern red) and hickory with other minor species. Growth is usually slower than bottomland hardwood, due to the lower site quality where this group commonly occurs. Although this group will tolerate poorer sites, it is capable of very rapid growth in situations of good site quality where deep, moist soils are present. In these situations, high-quality sawtimber and veneer logs are possible, but typically, most of the upland hardwood on Wheeler Reservoir is harvested for low- to medium-quality sawtimber and pulpwood products.

The definition of a mixed stand is one composed of conifers and hardwood, in which between one-third and two-thirds of the dominant and codominant trees are conifers. Species include a variety of hardwood types—loblolly, shortleaf and Virginia pine, and redcedar. A total of 698 acres (282 ha) of forests is considered mixed on Wheeler Reservoir. The pine component can produce various quality sawtimber or pulpwood products, and the redcedar is utilized as posts and, in some cases, sawtimber.

When TVA was established in 1933 an estimated one million acres (404,700 ha) of land was severely eroded in the Tennessee Valley. This prompted an extensive tree planting effort to restore the lands. To achieve this, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was established, and during its eight-year tenure, reforested over 90,000 acres (36,423 ha)

in the Valley. Planting objectives have changed since the early years of the CCC; until 1961 most reforestation efforts were aimed toward stabilization of the lands, but since then the primary objective has been to grow trees for industrial use (sawtimber and pulpwood). Historically, the level of planting activity can be tied to government assistance programs—when assistance is available, planting increases. This trend was also evident on TVA lands until the late 1960s when planting decreased significantly.

The pine resource on Wheeler Reservoir, although only 27 percent of the total forestland, offers the best opportunity for intensive forest management and also represents a significant forestry investment. Pine management is a more exact and predictable science than hardwood management, and pine markets are historically more stable. In addition, markets for all pine products are generally more available than hardwood.

About 2,229 acres (902 ha) of planted and naturally occurring pine are present on Wheeler Reservoir, most of which is planted loblolly pine. A large percentage of the planted loblolly is in old CCC plantations established from 1933 to 1941. These plantings comprise over 1,334 acres (540 ha) and are spread out across the entire reservoir. The present status of the plantations varies greatly because of inconsistent management activities; however, a significant number have been maintained and are presently in good condition. Volume of timber produced in these plantations varies generally with the intensity of past management and site quality. A range of volumes from 2,500 to 28,000 board-feet per acre is present with an average of about 14,000. At today's market value this equates to $250 to $2,800 per acre or an average of $1,400. An economic analysis of the CCC pine determined that these plantations have reached financial maturity and are now subject to economic loss through mortality and degradation.

The age structure for pine (natural and planted) is heavily influenced by the CCC plantations. They comprise over 70 percent of the planted pine and about 50 percent of all pine. Reforestation efforts have declined sharply on Wheeler Reservoir since the CCC plantings. Only 368 acres (149 ha) were planted on Wheeler Reservoir planned lands from 1941-1990. The pine stands of natural origin are more evenly distributed in year classes, although 63 percent are still in the 30- to 50-year-old class. The reason for the large percentage of both planted and natural pine in this age class can be attributed to the large amount of land that became idle during and after construction of Wheeler Dam.

About 527 acres (213 ha) of pine of natural origin, mainly from abandoned agricultural fields, are present on Wheeler Reservoir. Almost 90 percent of these are dominated by loblolly pine, with the remaining 10 percent made up of shortleaf pine and mixed shortleaf, loblolly, and Virginia pine. Although natural stands are generally less valuable than planted stands, they are still capable of producing attractive revenues and, in some cases, can rival planted stands. Generally, lower quality sawtimber and pulpwood are the main products produced by natural pine stands.

The forest resource on Wheeler Reservoir, although smaller than several other reservoirs, may contain the highest percentage of high-quality stands in the TVA system. These include both hardwood and pine, especially the bottomland hardwood and CCC pine plantations. When compared to other reservoirs, the Wheeler resource holds as much significance as any other and should be ranked near the top in importance.

Forestry is one of the most important industries in Alabama, providing jobs in every county and is the largest employer of all manufacturing payrolls. The value of timber harvested is more than double that of the next highest agricultural crop. Wheeler's forest resource provides only a small portion of the total timber harvested in Alabama at present; however, the CCC pine plantations have the potential to be a significant portion of local timber products. Locally, there are a significant number of timber-treating plants in the vicinity of Wheeler Reservoir that use timber produced on TVA lands.

The South is rapidly becoming the nation's leading producer of timber products, currently providing about 36 percent of the softwood. It is projected that the South will supply over half of the Nation's softwood requirement for both pulpwood and sawtimber by the year 2030. The source of these products will be from both private and commercial forestlands, although there are recent concerns that much of the private land is being undermanaged and will not produce the expected yields. At present, Wheeler Reservoir has little significance on a regional or national level; however, demonstrations on TVA lands for private landowners could make future impacts in the softwood supply.

Hardwood markets for both sawtimber and pulpwood have increased dramatically in recent years. Export markets for prime hardwood sawtimber have grown steadily and should remain viable in the future. At present, there is a good demand for hardwood chips for export; however, this trend should be short-lived, due to increasing demands in the deep South. There are several new mills under construction and several others are expanding, which will utilize present levels being exported and insure a continued increase in hardwood demand. Both of these markets are accessible to Wheeler Reservoir through the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Pine markets and prices should remain stable in the Wheeler area; two pulpmills are located in the vicinity, as are numerous sawmills. It seems unlikely that any significant new pine-using industries will develop in this area. The future demand for forest products on Wheeler Reservoir looks excellent; hardwood markets should be on the increase, while pine will likely remain stable.

Wildlife

About the turn of the century, populations of forest-dependent wildlife species had reached an all-time low across the Valley. Efforts begun in the 1930s by state and federal agencies brought improved forest management to the Valley. Improvements in forest wildlife populations have paralleled improvements in forest habitat conditions. Many native wildlife species, notably deer and turkey, have made significant comebacks from near extirpation.

***Wildlife Management Areas* (WMAs)**—Alabama Division of Game and Fish administers the Swan Creek and Mallard-Fox WMAs on Wheeler Reservoir, consisting of 4,545 acres (1,839 ha) of land and 5,825 acres (2,357 ha) of shallow water habitat. Wheeler WMA lands are heavily used by the general public, providing hunting opportunities for squirrel, raccoon, opossum, quail, rabbit, waterfowl, rail, woodcock, snipe, and dove. Although no legal deer harvest is permitted, a small herd utilizes Mallard-Fox Creek WMA and contributes to the area's wildlife-related recreational value. Furbearers, such as mink, beaver, bobcat, raccoon, muskrat, and fox, are trapped for the cash value of their pelts.

Wildlife management area lands also support other wildlife-related, outdoor recreational activities, such as fishing, bird-watching, nature study, horseback-riding, camping, and picnicking. Much of the user pressure on these lands comes from the Huntsville/Decatur metropolitan area and from residents of rural counties adjoining the reservoir. Alabama Game and Fish estimated that 1987-88 public use on Wheeler WMAs approached 7,500 man-days of waterfowl hunting, 4,800 man-days for small game, and 2,500 trap nights for furbearers.

Although 1991 survey results are not available on a substate basis, about 56 percent of Alabamians statewide participated in some form of wildlife-oriented recreation that year. Between 1970 and 1980, the Florence and Huntsville metropolitan areas sustained population increases of 12.6 and 8.4 percent, respectively. Between 1980 and 1990, their percentage increases were 4.8 and 12.6, respectively. Nearly one-half of north Alabamians participated in some form of wildlife-oriented recreation in 1985. The amount of public lands available for wildlife-oriented recreation has decreased, while the demand has increased. The capability of the remaining public land base for supporting wildlife has been diminished by the effects of pollution and pesticides; large-scale conversions to highly mechanized, monoculture farms; and disturbances associated with expanding rural populations. Private and corporate landowners have posted and leased large landholdings to private clubs to curtail indiscriminate public abuse of their properties. The average person living in north Alabama, not being a landowner with large acreage or a member of a private hunting club, uses public lands.

In 1980 only 3.4 percent of Alabama's total area was classified as public land. Of that total, only 1.9 percent was in WMAs. As of July 1987, Alabama ranked last among 16 southeastern states in terms of land acreage owned and managed for wildlife. Consequently, more intensive management of land presently included in WMAs is necessary to continue providing quality, wildlife-related, recreational opportunities for the general public.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge—Wheeler Refuge is Alabama's oldest and largest national wildlife refuge and is one of only two national wildlife refuges in the Tennessee River drainage basin. It is the southernmost wintering grounds for the Tennessee Valley population of migrant Canada geese and supports one of the Southeast's highest concentrations of these birds. In the lower Mississippi Waterfowl Flyway, Wheeler Refuge's peak winter waterfowl numbers (ducks and geese) typically range between 90,000 to 100,000 birds. Wheeler Refuge's bird list includes 304 species, from shorebirds and wading birds to raptors, warblers, sparrows, and game birds.

The western portion of Wheeler Refuge is within the city limits of Decatur, while the eastern end touches the city limits of Huntsville. Located in a heavily populated and a rapidly industrializing portion of the Valley, the refuge plays an important role in wildlife conservation. Annual recreational use of Wheeler Refuge has averaged between 500,000 and 600,000 visits.

Wheeler Refuge accommodates approximately 60 to 80 percent of the ducks and up to 90 to 100 percent of the Canada geese wintering on Wheeler Reservoir. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey data indicate that from October 1986 through September 1987 waterfowl numbers on Wheeler Refuge peaked in January at 37,000 Canada geese, 2,300 snow geese, and 56,070 ducks. Most of the ducks consisted of mallards, American wigeon, ring-necked ducks, and American black ducks, followed by northern pintail, wood ducks, and gadwall. Several federally listed threatened or endangered species utilize Wheeler Refuge either permanently or seasonally. These include the southern bald eagle, eastern peregrine falcon, and Indiana and gray bats.

Development pressures adjacent to Wheeler Refuge have increased substantially in recent years as Decatur and Huntsville continue their rapid growth. Expansion of Huntsville over the next five to ten years will result in significant development pressure on Wheeler Refuge lands.

Upland Wildlife—By the late 1800s, white-tailed deer populations were almost extirpated in Alabama and were at a dangerously low level in the Tennessee Valley region. In 1900 only a few thousand deer were present in Alabama, with populations restricted to areas of rugged terrain, sparsely populated forestland, and swamps and forested wetlands.

Today the white-tailed deer is Alabama's most abundant big game animal, with the current population estimated in excess of 1.5 million. Because of the large deer population, deer hunting has achieved considerable importance and provides substantial economic benefit to the local economy.

Harvest data underscore the success of statewide deer restoration efforts. During the 1977-78 hunting season, 147,000 deer were harvested. During the 1986-87 season, in excess of 300,000 deer were taken by sport hunters across the state. The deer population within the Wheeler Reservoir study areas should continue to expand.

The habitat within the study area is considered to be of good quality, and the size of the herd is generally below the carrying capacity. The white-tailed deer herd within the study area is an important regional resource that will increase significantly in value and size over the ten-year planning horizon.

Agricultural lands support a diversity of wildlife species, including bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbits, mourning doves, songbirds, small mammals, and various furbearers. Tremendous changes in both the quality and quantity of farm wildlife habitat have occurred in Alabama over the past 50 years. The Tennessee Valley in the late 1800s and early 1900s was largely composed of small subsistence farming operations. In 1934 approximately 94 percent of the Valley's 26.2 million acres (10.6 million ha) was in farmland. Today less than 51 percent of the Valley's land base is in farm production, and much of the former farmland is in successional stages that provide cover and food for wildlife.

During the late 1800s the typical farm in the Valley was relatively small, nonmechanized, and devoted to growing a variety of different crops. Fields were small and separated by numerous overgrown fence rows, providing native weed and legume seeds, as well as nesting and escape cover for bobwhite quail and other small game. Woodlots were kept open by annual burning to improve grazing for free-ranging livestock.

The heyday of the bobwhite quail, typical of several species of farm game, was the era of horse-drawn agriculture. Peak bobwhite populations in Alabama and across the Southeast occurred about the turn of the century, before beginning a slow decline in the early 1900s. Farming larger fields with modern machinery, increased herbicide use, increased tillage, conversion of large acreages to cotton, and double cropping all contributed to cleaning up less used areas, such as small fields and fence rows that once held quail. Generally, bobwhite populations in Alabama continue to decline, and there is no reason to believe this downward trend will not continue.

Due to its widespread range—it is native to and breeds in every state except Alaska and Hawaii—and reproductive potential, the mourning dove is the most numerous and sought-after farm game bird. Wildlife professionals generally feel that the increase in the number of hunters and the evolution of double cropping, along with more widespread clean-farming practices, have resulted in more widely scattered, less dense dove concentrations. Though harvests have increased, this scattering of birds is generally responsible for reduced hunter success, i.e., fewer birds per hunter. It is believed that today's land use patterns and practices, including farming, clearing forest, and opening new land, have been beneficial to mourning doves. They are thought to be as abundant throughout their range today as they have ever been.

As of 1988, TVA owned approximately 13,500 acres (5,463 ha) of row crop or hay-pasture agricultural lands Valleywide and 1,132 acres (458 ha) within the Wheeler Reservoir study area. Wildlife habitat improvement or protection provisions are normally included in the agricultural license agreement and enhanced levels of wildlife management on specific tracts are also provided through cooperative involvement of local wildlife conservation organizations. Such habitat improvement provisions are included in licenses affecting TVA property along Elk River.

Farm-related wildlife populations are generally declining because of intensified farming practices and increasing pressure from development interests. The agricultural-related wildlife resource in the Tennessee Valley is expected to continue declining over the ten-year planning period, yet public demand for wildlife-related recreational opportunities is increasing.

A diversity of forest types exist today on 10,486 acres (4,244 ha) of TVA-owned lands adjacent to Wheeler Reservoir. This forestland normally supports good populations of gray and fox squirrels, an increasing deer herd, and a small, but expanding, flock of wild turkeys. The sport of turkey hunting has increased dramatically during the last 15 years.

Gray squirrels are generally considered an underutilized resource across northern Alabama. Alabama Division of Game and Fish has been monitoring hunting pressures, and the squirrel was considered the most important forest game species from 1965 through 1972, after which it dropped behind white-tailed deer. However, it remains the second most sought-after species in the state today.

The future of the Valley's forest wildlife resources will depend upon the preservation, enhancement, and management of forested habitat. Increasing demands for forest products for building materials and pulp for paper, combined with the large-scale conversion of native hardwoods to a pine monoculture, all place limits on the quality and quantity of the region's forest wildlife habitat. Forest-related wildlife populations are expected to remain stable or increase slightly over the next ten years, due in part to expanded forest acreage and enhanced diversity created by harvest and regeneration activities.

Waterfowl and Wetland Wildlife—In areas with suitable habitat, the Wheeler Reservoir study area supports significant numbers of wood ducks. The highest concentration of birds is found within the boundaries of Wheeler Refuge.

Other areas on Wheeler Reservoir with exceptional wood duck habitat and concentrations of birds are Swan Creek and Mallard-Fox Creek wildlife management areas, West Flint Creek, Cotaco Creek, Flint River, and Paint Rock River.

Wheeler Reservoir presently supports a wood duck population second only to Kentucky Reservoir in the Tennessee Valley. However, industrial and residential development in the Huntsville-Decatur area is expanding rapidly. Wheeler Refuge personnel are very concerned about urban-industrial growth surrounding the refuge, fearing the creation, within the next ten years, of essentially an "island" of remaining habitat. This intense growth and subsequent increase in human population will no doubt put increased pressure and demands on the remaining wildlife habitat. If reservoir and tributary shoreline development continues, then riparian habitat destruction will negatively impact wood duck populations on Wheeler Reservoir.

Wheeler Reservoir ranks second only to Kentucky Reservoir in the numbers of migrating and wintering dabbling ducks. Wheeler Refuge was one of the first refuges developed in the Southeast to attract migratory and wintering waterfowl and is the major reason for consistent wintering waterfowl populations on Wheeler Reservoir. Significant portions of Wheeler Refuge, principally the Rockhouse and Harris-Sweetwater (White Springs) dewatering areas, are managed for dabbling duck species. Shallowly flooded grain crops, timbered areas, and native moist site vegetation provide feeding opportunities for a variety of dabbling duck species. In recent years, Wheeler Refuge personnel estimated a peak wintering duck population of 75,000 birds with the majority of these being dabbling ducks. During the 1987 Christmas Bird Count, conducted on Wheeler Refuge by the Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS), over 20,000 dabbling ducks were tabulated. Of this number, 11,000 were mallards, with gadwall, northern shoveler, and American black duck following in order.

Recent changes in aquatic macrophyte acreage on Wheeler Reservoir are impacting overwintering waterfowl distribution and, most likely, abundance. Aquatic macrophytes, principally chara (muskgrass), Eurasian water milfoil, and southern and spinyleaf naiad have increased from 800 acres (324 ha) in 1983 to a maximum of about 9,800 acres (3,966 ha) in 1988. In 1992 aquatic macrophytes colonized about 4,400 acres (1,780 ha). TVA studies in the 1980s on nearby Guntersville Reservoir documented the utilization of aquatic macrophytes as food resources by various dabbling duck species. During this study, it was shown that gadwall, American wigeon, and American coot numbers and area utilization is related to available acreage of Eurasian water milfoil. Areas where milfoil acreage was down or eliminated received little waterfowl use during the overwintering period.

Hydrilla was discovered on Wheeler Reservoir in 1987 and colonized 266 acres (108 ha) in 1989. Although surface colonies of hydrilla have not been observed in recent years, hydrilla has the potential to colonize large portions of Wheeler Reservoir. When it becomes established, hydrilla essentially displaces all other submersed macrophytes. Documented utilization of hydrilla as a food source by waterfowl in Florida and Texas illustrates its potential value to waterfowl in Valley reservoirs. However, the potential dominance of this plant requires a closer look. As hydrilla becomes established, aquatic macrophyte diversity decreases. The long-term impact of decreased aquatic macrophyte diversity on waterfowl usage and numbers is yet to be determined.

In general, the increase in aquatic macrophytes on Wheeler Reservoir has positively benefited migrating and wintering dabbling ducks. Wheeler Refuge personnel have noted an increase in use by dabbling ducks of aquatic macrophyte beds in sloughs within the refuge, noting at times greater utilization of these areas than the managed dewatering units.

The amount and quality of wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl has generally declined in the eastern United States, as well as in the Tennessee Valley region, during the last 30 years. The growth of the urban industrial complex and changing agricultural practices have had the greatest impacts on this habitat. Wheeler Refuge personnel have frequently expressed concern regarding the conversion of agricultural land abutting the refuge to industrial or residential areas, thereby eliminating not only a buffer area but, in many cases, significant wildlife habitat. The same potential exists for many TVA tracts on Wheeler Reservoir that are essentially becoming islands of wildlife habitat as development continues to surround them.

Waterfowl habitat and the associated dabbling duck population on Wheeler Reservoir are resources of regional and national significance. Waterfowl on Wheeler Reservoir are utilized by both the hunting and nonhunting public, and protection of prime habitat is deemed critical by FWS and the Alabama Game and Fish. However, migrant and wintering waterfowl use of the reservoir will probably slowly decline over the next ten years, as shoreline development increases and the continental waterfowl population continues to decline. Implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan could help to reverse this trend.

This plan provides a framework for waterfowl management and conservation efforts in the United States and Canada through the year 2000.

Although migratory diving ducks are not as abundant as dabbling ducks, Wheeler Reservoir typically supports substantial numbers of a diverse group of species representing this waterfowl category. From 1977 to 1983, TVA's aerial fall-winter surveys recorded a cumulative total of 32,000 diving ducks, representing 15 species. The most commonly observed species were scaup, common goldeneye, canvasback, common merganser, and ring-necked ducks. Numbers of diving ducks observed on Wheeler Reservoir generally increased from 1983 through 1986. Once again, this increase is likely related to the increase in aquatic macrophytes on the reservoir, creating more diverse foraging habitats.

Several areas on Wheeler Reservoir consistently attract canvasback ducks throughout the migration and overwintering period. This species, of national concern because of continued population declines, is now protected throughout the United States.

Data (1970 to 1984) indicate that continental breeding populations of diving ducks are fairly stable but below desired populations for some species. As a result of encroaching development, diving duck utilization of Wheeler Reservoir will likely diminish over the next ten years. This factor only increases the probability of continued decline for diving duck populations throughout North America.

Migratory geese began using Wheeler Reservoir soon after its impoundment in 1936. A migratory waterfowl report for the 1938-39 season reported a total count of 2,775 Canada geese and 3,715 snow geese. The majority of these birds were sighted during the autumn migration period from September through November. It is believed these birds were stopping at Wheeler Reservoir on their way to wintering areas along the Alabama and Florida Gulf Coast.

Wheeler Refuge was officially dedicated in July 1938, with the primary emphasis being development of a southern wintering terminus for migratory Canada geese. During the winter of 1938-39 only 150 Canada geese were counted from December through February. Numbers of wintering geese continued to gradually increase, reaching a peak count of 58,000 birds in winter 1963-64. During the winter of 1986-87 there was a peak population of 39,000 geese, of which 2,300 were snow geese.

Numbers of wintering Canada geese should remain relatively stable over the next ten years, with Wheeler Refuge personnel estimating annual peak populations of 35,000 to 40,000 birds. Numbers of wintering snow geese will probably continue to slowly increase as this species becomes more adapted to foraging in inland crop fields.

In 1987 flocks of resident (nonmigratory) Canada geese were released in the Buck Island area of Elk River and on private ponds near the Spring Creek embayment. These flocks, totaling approximately 100 birds,were released by the Tennessee Valley Wildlife Association (TVWA) in cooperation with Alabama Game and Fish. The TVWA is a sportsman's group based in the Huntsville-Decatur-Guntersville area, with a strong interest in waterfowl development in the Wheeler Reservoir area.

In addition to geese, TVWA is also releasing pen-reared mallards. In 1988 250 were released in the Buck Island area of Elk River and 250 more into the Spring Creek embayment. Day-old ducklings were obtained from Arkansas, held in pens, and slow-released on these areas. Alabama Game and Fish personnel agreed to band the mallards in order to obtain data on first-year survival of the birds. Historically, most such releases have met with limited success, primarily due to high mortality during the first hunting season. Efforts with both geese and mallards were intended to establish and supplement self-sustaining resident flocks for public use and enjoyment.

As of 1993, knowledgeable members of TVWA characterize the success of their Canada geese restoration work as "fair." This characterization is substantiated by data obtained relative to geese use on TVWA's Paint Rock River Refuge, coupled with reports of geese observations and movements along other portions of the reservoir. Due largely to suspected poaching and crossbreeding with domestic ducks, mallards released have not fared as well. This aspect of TVWA's work has been characterized as "poor."

The outlook for resident Canada geese and mallards over the next ten years will depend on the survival rate for birds through the first few hunting seasons. While resident Canada geese habitat may be fairly limited near the reservoir shoreline, rural farmland surrounding the reservoir area may support a slowly growing flock. Additionally, Wheeler Reservoir will probably support a small, but stable, population of semi-wild resident mallards during the ten-year planning cycle.

Wetlands Wildlife—Portions of Wheeler Reservoir are consistently used by wintering bald eagles; however, the number of eagles counted on midwinter surveys is considerably lower than on nearby Guntersville and Pickwick Reservoirs. Midwinter eagle surveys, conducted by TVA biologists in 1980 and 1981, found one and two eagles, respectively, on all of Wheeler Reservoir. Midwinter waterfowl counts, conducted by Alabama Game and Fish personnel from 1983 through 1988, did not note any bald eagles along the survey route from Highway 31 bridge at Decatur west to Wheeler Dam. The 1986 Christmas Bird Count conducted on Wheeler Refuge by members of the AOS, recorded two immature bald eagles.

The bald eagle is a federally endangered species and has additional significance because of its status as the national symbol. Increased nesting activity by bald eagles in the lower 48 states has resulted in suitable wintering habitat becoming a critical element for successful recovery of this majestic bird.

The scarcity of wintering eagles on Wheeler Reservoir, compared with Guntersville and Pickwick Reservoirs, is difficult to explain. Responsible factors may be related to the quality of the local fishery, topography of adjacent lands, or historical problems with environmental contaminants.

Wintering bald eagles will also be adversely impacted by continued shoreline development on Wheeler Reservoir. The maintenance of riparian habitat, isolated from urban-industrial complexes, is requisite to maintaining wintering bald eagles. However, as nesting populations of bald eagles in the lower 48 states recover, and the environmental contaminant situation improves, the number of wintering eagles should also slowly increase during the ten-year planning horizon.

Historically, osprey have nested along major drainages of the Tennessee Valley, although probably not in great numbers. A TVA biologist reported an osprey nest in the 1930s near the confluence of the Tennessee and Elk Rivers, which is now inundated by Wheeler Reservoir. However, since its initial filling in 1936, there are no verified reports of osprey nesting on Wheeler Reservoir.

Osprey are important barometers of environmental quality. Throughout North America, osprey populations plummeted between 1955 and 1972, due to widespread use of chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides, such as DDT, that caused thinning of egg shells and subsequent nesting failure. The general use of such pesticides was banned by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and osprey populations have slowly begun to recover. Osprey numbers have increased significantly throughout most of their historical coastal nesting areas but are still considered uncommon nesters on all Tennessee Valley reservoirs, with the exception of Watts Bar Reservoir in East Tennessee.

Osprey are frequently sighted on Wheeler Reservoir, with the majority of birds occurring during spring and fall migrations. A total of ten young osprey has been "hacked" on Wheeler Reservoir by TVA in cooperation with Alabama Game and Fish and FWS. (Hacking is a technique used to reintroduce raptors to historical nesting areas.)

The presence of osprey on Wheeler Reservoir is of both regional and local significance, because of the birds' special status in the Tennessee Valley region. Surviving osprey from the Wheeler Reservoir hacking project should begin returning to the reservoir to nest in the next few years. Thus, the numbers of osprey using Wheeler Reservoir should increase over the next ten years.

At one time, Wheeler Reservoir supported the most diverse arrays of nesting wading birds in the Tennessee Valley. A colony near Triana, Alabama, supported yellow-crowned night herons from 1959 through 1961. Nesting records from a colony located on Beaverdam Creek embayment on Wheeler Refuge date back to 1947. In 1950 this colony supported a peak of 300 active great blue heron and 300 active great egret nests.

However, following widespread use of DDT for agricultural use and mosquito control and an industrial accident involving the same chemical, the herons were no longer seen at this colony site.

A diverse nesting colony located in Beulah Bay, and later in Swan Creek embayment, provides nest records back to 1959. In 1963 this colony contained nests of six wading bird species, including little blue herons, black-crowned night herons, snowy egret, cattle egret, great egret, and tricolored (Louisiana) heron. In 1966 this nesting colony was totally abandoned. In 1980 an aggregation of green-backed heron nests was found on a cluster of small islands near Decatur at Tennessee River mile 303.5 to Tennessee River mile 304. A total of 51 active nests were located that year. This nesting aggregation continued up through the 1985 nesting season, when 16 active nests were found.

Presently, there are no known nesting colonies of wading or water birds on Wheeler Reservoir. The demise of these colonies is thought to be a direct result of the widespread use of a variety of pesticides in the area.

Double-crested cormorants, relatively uncommon water birds on Wheeler Reservoir, are usually sighted singly or in small groups from October through March. Midwinter waterfowl surveys, conducted by Alabama Game and Fish personnel between 1983 and 1988, noted 146 cormorants, most of which were sighted on mainstream portions of the reservoir adjacent to Swan Creek WMA. These numbers reflect a general upward trend. This species formerly nested on Kentucky Reservoir and Reelfoot Lake, and if current trends continue and nesting populations of cormorants in Canada and the northern United States continue to increase, the number of migrant birds stopping on Wheeler Reservoir should at least remain stable and may possibly increase.

Shoreline development is slowly reducing wading and water bird habitat on a Valleywide basis. However, prime use areas on Wheeler Reservoir that are situated near islands and shallow water sloughs are reasonably well protected. Many of these areas are found within Wheeler Refuge and on lands licensed to the state of Alabama for wildlife management purposes. Other important use areas are located along large TVA tracts that presently buffer adjacent development. These areas are regionally significant as foraging habitat for recovering heron populations in the southern portion of the Valley. Over the next ten years, the availability of this type of habitat will probably decrease as shoreline development continues. However, improved water quality as a result of the isolation and stabilization of pesticide residues may help offset habitat loss. Guntersville Reservoir's expanding great blue heron population may eventually lead to recolonization of available nesting habitat on Wheeler Reservoir.

Most of the available nesting and foraging habitat for migratory shorebirds occurs along drawdown zones and mud flats, and the acreage of moist riparian zones used by certain shorebird species may be decreasing as a result of shoreline developments. Additionally, the rapid expansion of American lotus beds on areas of the Wheeler drawdown zone may negatively impact habitat for some species while benefiting others. Attention has recently been focused on managing shorebird populations by protecting essential habitat along major migration routes. Private conservation groups, such as the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, World Wildlife Fund, and others, are working cooperatively to preserve key habitat along shorebird migration routes and to reverse declining population trends exhibited by certain species. The availability of shorebird habitat on Wheeler Reservoir is

almost directly related to reservoir drawdown schedules. The drawdown normally begins around the first of August, with a slow gradual draw continuing through December. This drawdown coincides with the peak of shorebird migration.

Since 1990 TVA has initiated reservoir drawdown later in the year effectively extending the recreation season. This results in higher water levels during the peak shorebird migration period (August through September). Although not yet evidenced, this type of reservoir operation schedule is likely to negatively impact migratory shorebird usage.

Swan Creek and Limestone Creek embayments are among the relatively few areas in north Alabama where numbers of shorebirds (predominantly killdeer, greater and lesser yellowlegs, least sandpiper, dunlin, and common snipe) regularly winter. In these areas, numerous creeks keep the substrate wet during the coldest months and also provide a reliable source of macroinvertebrates. Since shorebirds feed on aquatic invertebrates, it is essential that overwintering shorebirds have access to unfrozen mud flats throughout the coldest months. The following are counts for species and numbers of shorebirds in 1986 and 1987, respectively: killdeer (286, 984); greater yellowlegs (70, 58); lesser yellowlegs (0, 15); least sandpiper (275, 1,000); dunlin (71, 100); and common snipe (67, 422).

On Wheeler Reservoir, numbers of wintering shorebirds vary with continent-wide population trends, climatic factors, and the availability of suitable habitat. Therefore, over the next ten years, wintering shorebird populations may decline within the study area, unless winter habitat is preserved by proper shoreline management.

From December to March, thousands of gulls winter on Wheeler Reservoir. Most of these birds are ring-billed gulls, with herring and Bonaparte's gulls comprising a smaller percentage of the total. As northern lakes and waterways freeze over, gulls migrate south in search of open water; consequently, the number of wintering gulls vary with the intensity and duration of winter weather. Generally speaking, concentrations of wintering gulls are centered around human population centers and hydroelectric dams where food (floating refuse and dead fish) is readily available. Within the Wheeler Reservoir study area, gull concentrations are found near Wheeler and Guntersville Dams and near the Decatur port and marina complex.

Recently, gull concentration areas have received increased attention from bird-watchers searching for rare species (such as black-legged kittiwakes, glaucous gulls, and little gulls) and from the general public interested in wildlife observation. As human population centers expand within the Wheeler Reservoir area, the availability of additional food may serve to attract more gulls and increase wintering populations.

Wetland and semiaquatic furbearers depend on high-quality wetland/riparian habitats. Shoreline development can adversely impact wetland furbearers. Wheeler Reservoir and its tributaries are some of the most productive areas for wetland/semiaquatic furbearers in north Alabama.

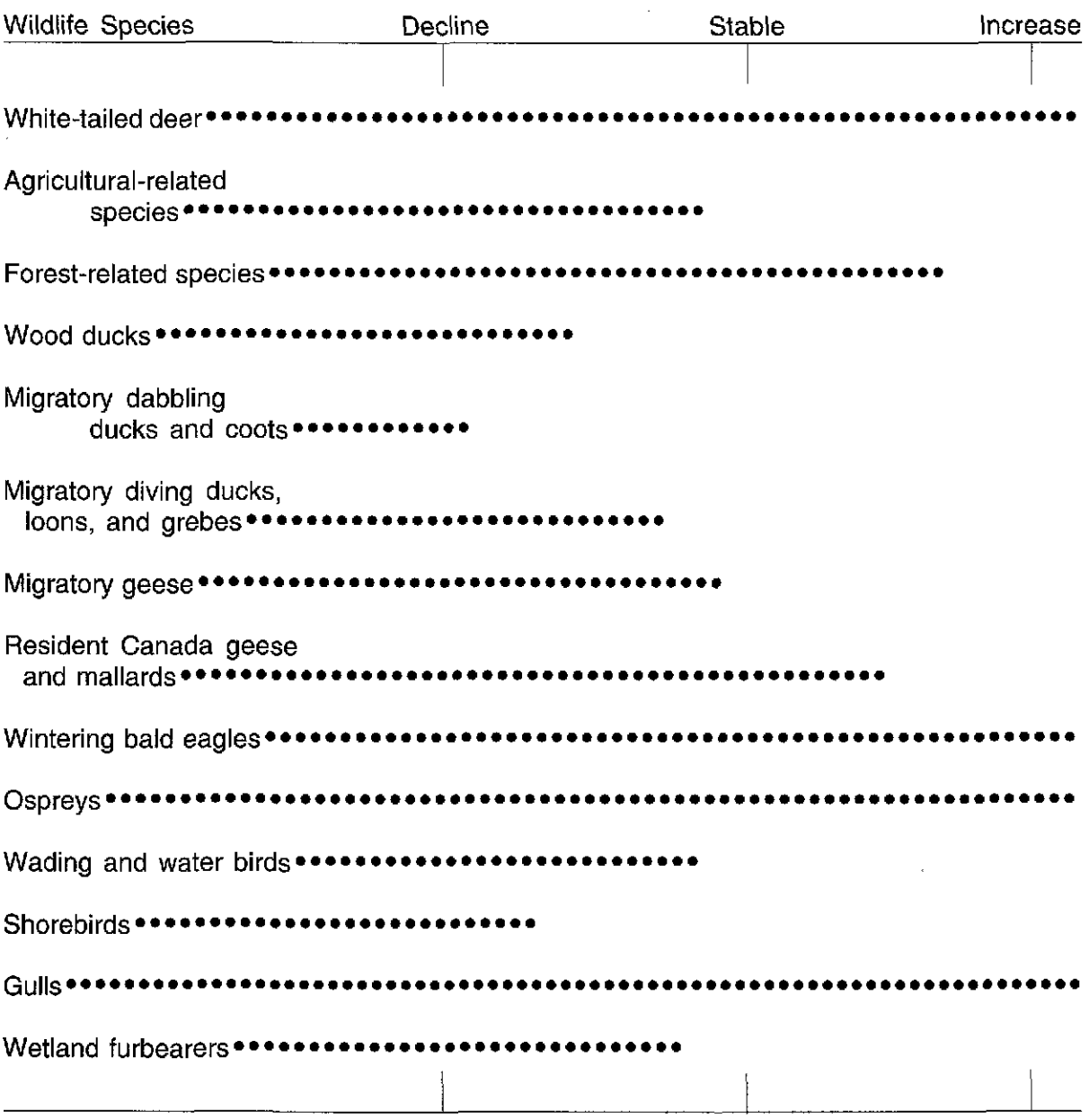
In 1983 Wheeler Refuge personnel estimated the furbearer population on refuge lands and water to include beaver, muskrat, raccoon, mink, and river otter. The occurrence of river otter is especially significant because this species is considered uncommon to rare throughout much of the Tennessee Valley region. Indications of river otters have been observed along several of the larger Wheeler Reservoir tributaries, including Flint Creek and Flint River.

Within the study area, wetland and semiaquatic furbearer populations should remain stable over the next ten years, unless shoreline development along the reservoir and major tributaries increases significantly.

Table VI summarizes the regional trends for wildlife and associated habitats for the Wheeler Reservoir land use plan as predicted for the next ten years.

TABLE VI

REGIONAL TRENDS IN WILDLIFE RESOURCES



Predicted regional trends of wildlife resources within the ten-year land use planning horizon based on existing conditions and trends.

Environmental Quality

Environmental quality is an overriding concern in managing the Valley's natural resources. Public concerns about issues such as air quality, water supply, visual quality, and solid waste management occurring in the Wheeler Reservoir area are addressed by TVA to protect and enhance the quality of life and the natural environment. Specifically, TVA has a responsibility to cooperate and consult with the public and with state, local, and federal environmental regulatory agencies to help monitor, research, and evaluate the extent to which environmental quality standards are met. On July 1, 1987, the standards for total suspended particulates were replaced with the PM-10 standard for respirable particulates.

Air Quality

Alabama has adopted the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which limit concentrations in the outside air of six pollutants: particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and lead. These standards are designed to protect public health and welfare. An area where any air quality standard is violated is designated as a nonattainment area for that pollutant, and emissions of that pollutant from new or expanding sources are carefully controlled. However, no nonattainment areas exist along Wheeler Reservoir or near enough to be a consideration.

Alabama has also adopted Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) regulations. Under these, national parks and wilderness areas are designated PSD Class I air quality areas, which are specially protected. A new or expanding major air pollutant source within 31 miles (50 km) of a Class I area would be required to estimate potential impact on the air quality of that Class I area. In addition, the federal land manager having jurisdiction over the Class I area may request similar action for large sources at distances of 31 to 62 miles (50 km to 100 km).

The only PSD Class I area within 62 miles (100 km) of Wheeler Reservoir is the Sipsey National Wilderness Area, which is south of Wheeler Dam and west of Guntersville Dam. The lower 60 percent of Wheeler Reservoir is within 31 miles (50 km) of this Class I area, and the closest points are about 22 miles (35 km) away. The upper 40 percent of Wheeler Reservoir is between 31 miles and 50 miles (50 km and 80 km) from the wilderness area.

From an air quality perspective, the feasibility of locating an industrial facility within a given tract will depend on the magnitude of air emissions from the proposed source and from existing nearby sources, meteorological factors that affect dispersion of the pollutants, and proximity to areas with special air quality requirements, such as the Sipsey River Wilderness PSD Class I area. These factors must be evaluated in the process of applying for an air quality permit, and any industrial prospects interested in locating in a given tract or in requesting access across the tract should check with the state of Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for emission inventory information from existing industrial facilities and other special considerations.

Visual Quality

Wheeler Reservoir, the third largest of the mainstream reservoirs, stretches approximately 75 miles (121 km) across north Alabama, providing a wide variety of scenic resources to a region that is composed largely of level to slightly rolling farmland.

The upper third of the reservoir is riverine in character, with only a few stretches of the eroded high-bank shorelines typical of most mainstream tailwater areas. Of notable visual significance are the numerous high rock bluffs that dominate the landscape and exhibit many unique facades that evidence centuries of change. This upper portion of the reservoir is also accented by a number of tributary creeks and rivers that afford boating access for a number of miles from the main channel. These streams offer quiet settings as they meander through bottomland hardwood stands, swamps, and occasional high-bank, bluff-type landscapes.

In contrast to the quiet of Flint River or Cotaco Creek are the industrial landings that range from the sand and gravel operation at Hobbs Island to the massive chemical and grain terminals which loom up along the southern shoreline at Decatur. Here, the mid-portion of the reservoir takes on more lake-like characteristics, with the shoreline composed largely of wildlife refuges and shallow backwater areas that are occupied by aquatic plants during much of the year.

Wheeler Reservoir downstream of Decatur averages 2 miles (3 km) in width, giving a different visual dimension. As one observes from the water or from the shoreline, the most marked variances in the landscape are BFNP on the right bank and Champion International Corporation (Champion) adjacent to a highly eroded main channel shoreline on the opposite shore.

By contrast, Spring Creek embayment affords the viewer a somewhat unusual setting visible mainly to the small boater and the back-road traveler. This deep-water embayment provides a calm, pastoral setting at human scale, which is a welcome relief from the vastness of the main reservoir. Its shoreline is agricultural in nature, broken intermittently by small timber stands and devoid of development. On a similar scale is the Elk River, navigable by small boats for many miles from the reservoir. While residential development dots much of the lower section of the Elk, some of the most notable visual assets are found along its shores. High, sculpted rock bluffs and calm, stump-filled areas lined with stands of bottomland hardwoods can be found for miles along its reaches.

The lower portion of the main reservoir holds the largest concentrations of primary and secondary lake homes. These range in size from mobile homes and cottages to large primary residences. Concentrations of residents are greatest along the northern shoreline and along Elk River. This appears, in part, to be a result of available private land and the proximity to numerous small towns and communities.

While Wheeler Reservoir supports a large industrial usage, it does not have the residential densities of most other TVA lakes, nor does it receive the same boating use. With seven marinas providing boat storage for just over 1,000 boats, Wheeler remains virtually untapped as a boating resource.

Visual resources were once thought of as nonessential amenities, but today people recognize our visual environment as a definite resource. The President's Commission on Americans Outdoors recently urged communities to protect valuable open spaces "to create a network of greenways across the USA," with rivers and streams the most obvious corridors. Goals to safeguard the environment included the expansion of "recreational opportunities on federal lands and to protect and improve the federal estate."

As the areas around Wheeler Reservoir continue to grow and develop, increasing pressures will be placed on the reservoir and on the surrounding landscape. With a major north/south interstate crossing Wheeler Reservoir and the increased migration of the northern population to the southern states, it is only a matter of time before this area will experience a marked increase in use.

It is TVA's responsibility, *as stewards of public* land, to maintain the integrity of reservoir lands, while allowing change and adaptation to express new values and emerging trends. While management practices may be scientifically and otherwise environmentally correct, they do not always alter our scenic resources in a visually acceptable way, especially in the public eye. By recognizing what exists as a scenic resource, better design and management decisions can be made. Visual management must recognize that some landscapes are more resilient and more able to absorb alteration than others. The prescribed visual management objectives assigned to each tract in this plan must consider environmental, economic, and aesthetic issues and concerns.

Water Quality

Wheeler Reservoir receives drainage from a total of 29,590 square miles (76,638 sq km). The largest tributary to Wheeler Reservoir, the Elk River, has a total drainage area of 2,249 sq mi (5,825 sq km). The next largest tributaries are Flint River, Paint Rock River, and Flint Creek, with drainage areas of 568, 458, and 455 sq mi (1,471; 1,186; and 1,178 sq km.), respectively. This total of 3,730 sq mi (9,661 sq km), combined with an additional 1,410 sq mi (3,652 sq km), provides a combined subdrainage of 5,140 sq mi (13,313 sq km) located between Guntersville Dam and Wheeler Dam. The watershed is primarily mixed hardwood forests and farms, many on prime farmland. The floodplain zones of Wheeler Reservoir also support many areas of bottomland hardwood forest that provide important wildlife habitat. This habitat is especially important because such wetlands are rapidly being lost to clearing for agriculture.

Water discharges have a significant impact on reservoir water quality and can affect the suitability of portions of the reservoir uses such as water supply, recreation, fishing, and support of other aquatic life. The state of Alabama has classified its freshwater rivers and streams for five uses. These are: public water supply, swimming and other water contact sports, fish and wildlife, agricultural and industrial water supply, and industrial operations. Generally, a stream is classified for all uses that are reasonable, based on flow, depth, and existing uses of the stream. Wheeler Reservoir is classified for all uses downstream of the confluence of the Elk and Tennessee Rivers. Upstream, some uses are not considered appropriate in certain areas because of discharges or surrounding land use. All of Wheeler Reservoir, except for one reach of Flint Creek, is classified for fish and wildlife. All streams classified for fish and wildlife are considered to have suitable water quality for agricultural and industrial water supply, and streams classified for the latter are considered to be suitable also for industrial operations.

Water quality concerns on Wheeler Reservoir include high nutrient loading, high bacterial concentrations, toxic substances, and areas of low oxygen. Nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) lead to excessive growths of algae, which interfere with recreation and other reservoir uses. The primary sources of these nutrients are fertilizers, domestic wastes, and some industrial wastes. High bacteria concentrations indicate recent contamination by wastes from humans or other warm-blooded animals and represent health risks. Toxic substances in Wheeler Reservoir include agricultural pesticides and components of some industrial discharges. Low oxygen affects aquatic life in the reservoir and is a by-product of excessive algae and aquatic vegetation, the discharge of oxygen-demanding wastes, and natural processes occurring in the reservoir.

Water quality in the upstream 25 miles (40 km) of Wheeler Reservoir is largely determined by the water quality in the releases from Guntersville Reservoir. This reach of the river is primarily agricultural, with some recreation sites and a few homes.

For the next 25 miles (40 km), one or both shorelines are included in WMAs. The vegetation in these areas provides some protection from runoff to the reservoir water quality. However, more important to water quality in this reach are municipal and industrial discharges from Huntsville and Decatur. The best-known water quality problem in this reach is the contamination of Huntsville Spring Branch. Wheeler Reservoir itself is impacted by high levels of DDT in catfish and buffalo, which has resulted in the ban of interstate sale of fish from one or more markets in the area. Several fish kills in the 1970s were associated with industrial discharges at both Decatur and Huntsville. Toxicity tests run on the effluents of two Decatur industries in 1982 and 1983 indicated a potential for chronic toxicity to occur in the mixing zone for certain species of aquatic organisms. Increased discharges may further impact the reservoir.

For the downstream one-third of Wheeler Reservoir, there are three important impacts or possible impacts to the water quality of the reservoir: BFNP, Champion, and agricultural runoff. Although the long-term effect on Wheeler Reservoir from the large volumes of heated water (2,800 mgd.) released from BFNP is not fully understood, indigenous aquatic populations appear to be adequately protected. Champion discharges the highest level of oxygen wastewater into the reservoir, about 12 miles (19 km) downstream of BFNP.

Water quality concerns associated with agricultural runoff include nutrients from fertilizer and animal waste, bacteria, and pesticides. During the mid-1970s, several fish kills involving thousands of fish were caused by indiscriminate application of pesticides. The most recent documented fish kill involving agricultural pesticides took place in 1980.

An additional water quality concern is residential development along the shoreline, which may cause some localized impacts on water quality, especially in embayments without large inflows to flush out pollutants.

Generally, the upstream 35-mile reach (56 km) of Wheeler Reservoir resembles a river more than a reservoir, and water quality concerns are usually associated directly with discharges, toxicity of industrial discharges, or depleted oxygen in the vicinity of a sewage discharge or bypass.

In the reservoir's downstream 39 miles (63 km), its character changes as it becomes wider and deeper. Water quality concerns are more typical of reservoirs than of rivers. Virtually all excessive algal growth and aquatic macrophyte colonies occur in this reach. Impacts of agricultural runoff remain the main water quality concern in some of the embayments and their tributaries (Limestone Creek, Swan Creek, and Big Nance Creek). In the upstream end of the 39-mile reach (63 km), effects from point source discharges at Decatur are still the main concern. Farther downstream, as the reservoir becomes wider and deeper, the natural processes of the reservoir cause the primary water quality concerns to be low oxygen in the bottom waters and excessive algal growth.

The reservoir's overall water quality is suitable for most purposes. Some areas are not suitable for all uses because of past and present waste discharges and surrounding land use. Except for relatively high concentrations of some toxics at Huntsville, water quality in Wheeler is similar to that in other Tennessee River reservoirs. Nutrient levels and oxygen concentrations are typical, and algal blooms bring few complaints. Aquatic macrophyte coverage is less than in Guntersville, the reservoir immediately upstream, although aquatic plant coverage has increased substantially on Wheeler Reservoir since the early 1980s. Other emerging water quality concerns would include the effects of shoreline development on local water quality and possible impacts on fishery habitat, and possible long-term impacts on the reservoir's fishery from low concentrations of toxic materials.

For additional information relating to the water quality of Wheeler Reservoir, refer to the following publications.

- *Water Resources Issues Analysis: Wheeler Reservoir Watershed Region*, Tennessee Valley Authority, Water Resources, Chattanooga, Tennessee, February 1990. TVA Contact: Janice P. Cox (423) 751-7337.

- *Water Resources Review: Wheeler Reservoir*, Tennessee Valley Authority, Water Resources, Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 1990. TVA Contact: Robert Wallus (423) 751-7506.

- *Status of Wheeler Reservoir: An Overview of Reservoir Conditions*, Tennessee Valley Authority, Water Resources, Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 1990. TVA Contact: Larry R. Clark (423) 751-7331.

I-65 Bridge over Wheeler Reservoir, May 1977.

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Planning Issues, Goals, And Objectives

Planning Issues, Concerns, Goals, And Objectives

Citizens participating in the Wheeler Reservoir planning process identified and recorded important issues and concerns at three public workshops held in cities neighboring Wheeler Reservoir. This section focuses on planning strategies to respond to these locally identified issues, as well as to accomplish TVA's Valleywide goals.

Some of the issues are specific to Wheeler Reservoir, and others, broad in scope, are related to TVA's Valleywide public lands stewardship, roles and responsibilities. TVA staffs and the planning team address the following public issues and concerns as they relate to (1) TVA's public land stewardship and (2) the Reservoir Land Management Plan goals and objectives.

Public Land Stewardship

Introduction

TVA is expected to be a good steward of the public lands entrusted to the agency along the Tennessee River system. The goal of TVA's Land Management is to manage this property to meet public needs and values. These public lands must be managed to provide diverse benefits for both current and future generations.

Valleywide Status of Public Land Ownership

- Over the years, TVA acquired approximately 600,000 acres (242,820 ha) of land above the summer pool level of the agency's 34 reservoir projects. Lands acquired for the Wheeler Reservoir project total approximately 103,400 acres (41,846 ha), of which 54,000 acres (21,854 ha) are above the summer pool (556 feet [169.5 m]) level.

- Today TVA owns a relatively small portion of the land around its reservoirs. Only 250,000 acres (101,175 ha) above the summer pool level remain in TVA ownership. Of these acres, there are fewer than 2,000 acres (809 ha) per reservoir on 19 of TVA's 34 reservoirs. Nine reservoirs have between 2,000 and 15,000 acres (809 and 6,071 ha). Only six contain over 15,000 acres (6,071 ha). Of these six, only three have over 15,000 acres (6,071 ha) of land that are not subject to flooding. Much of the public reservoir land has limited development potential, but it is well-suited for recreation and resource management and protection activities. Currently, TVA maintains an 11,284-acre (4,567-ha) public land base on Wheeler Reservoir.

Acreages for Wheeler Reservoir's four major land use categories are as follows:

Category	Allocated Acres/(ha)
1. Economic Development	348/ (141)
2. Recreation Development	1,611/ (652)
3. Resource Management	7,291/(2,951)
4. Environmental and Cultural Protection	2,034/ (823)
Total	11,284/(4,567)

- Although private development is increasing at a steady pace, the private sector now owns more undeveloped land than TVA around most reservoirs. This includes much land previously sold by TVA. A 1986 study of 3,600 acres (1,457 ha) of land sold by TVA in the 1950s on Watts Bar Reservoir revealed that 70 percent of the former TVA land, or 2,500 acres (1,012 ha), remains undeveloped. A similar conclusion was reached in the Tennessee River and Reservoir System Operation and Planning Review (1990). This Valleywide analysis showed that approximately 70 percent of the private shoreline around TVA lakes is undeveloped.

- On Wheeler Reservoir, 31 percent of the total 1,063 miles (1,710 km) of shoreline is held under TVA management. The remaining 69 percent has been committed or transferred to other government agencies or sold for private use (including marginal strip).

Valleywide Property Management and Administration

Concerns relating to TVA's Valleywide public land stewardship campaign most frequently asked by lake users at the Wheeler Reservoir public workshops are as follows:

Public Issue or Concern: What can TVA and the public do to stop the abuse of public land and water?

TVA Response: TVA is experiencing an alarming number of abuses of public lands and waterways. As of September 1991, TVA identified over 2,400 significant encroachments and violations Valleywide, including unauthorized private shoreline alterations addressed above; portions of dwellings and excessively large storage buildings that increase the likelihood of flood damage; and nonnavigable houseboats that do not meet applicable standards for buoyancy, maneuverability, and water quality. Almost half of these existing encroachments and violations are situated on TVA fee-owned land. Another 35 percent are situated on private land over which TVA acquired flowage easement rights or reserved flooding rights when property was sold. The remaining 15 percent are violations of Section 26a regulations. Other land abuses include approximately 270 dump sites and littered informal recreation areas, 675 annual incidents of vandalism, and extensive illegal tree cutting (over 1,900 trees cut in fiscal year 1991).

Many citizens participating in the Wheeler Reservoir public workshops made statement that TVA should not create more rules and regulations but should monitor and enforce the regulations currently approved. To be an effective steward of public land resources, TVA must stop abuses. The ultimate goal is to prevent or significantly reduce the occurrence of future abuses. The agency has developed a strategy to bring the situation under control. Key elements of the strategy include a lake user education program; new flood risk data analysis; property boundary marking; an increased frequency of shoreline inspections; an expansion of TVA field presence; and the promotion of river cleanup activities.

It is essential that TVA place a high priority on preventing encroachments and violations, particulary those occurring on TVA fee-owned public lands.

Public Issue or Concern: How does the public know who to contact about using TVA land?

TVA Response: Any questions regarding the use of TVA land in the Wheeler Reservoir area should be directed to TVA's Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Office, 119 County Road 412, Town Creek, Alabama 35672, (205) 685-4200 or 685-4205. TVA has 11 Land Management offices responsible for specific reservoirs. Call the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management office for additional information relating to other reservoir teams.

Oftentimes, abuses to public land are not intentional, but can be attributed to the lack of knowledge or understanding of TVA property rights. While continuing to work with property owners to resolve existing encroachments and violations, TVA's main interest is to prevent future abuses.

To increase public awareness of TVA landrights and requirements related to altering shorelands or building waterfront facilities, in 1989 TVA launched a land stewardship public education campaign. A widely distributed brochure, "Save Yourself Time and Money:" Ask TVA First, was printed by the agency to tell the public about TVA's permit approval process and where to inquire for more information. To obtain the brochure or schedule a presentation, contact TVA's Land Management Office. The district office is also presenting the video Public Lands: Handle With Care to lake user groups, property owner associations, civic clubs, and other interested groups. Informational reservoir fact sheets are currently being produced and used to heighten awareness and better inform the public.

Public Issue or Concern: The public user needs to know where TVA land is located.

TVA Response: TVA has prepared area reservoir recreation maps that are available to the public at no charge, which show the general location of TVA public lands. (For maps contact Ellen Bean, TVA Natural Resources Building, 17 Ridgeway Road, Norris, Tennessee 37828 (423) 632-1805.) The local TVA district office is also available to answer questions related to TVA reservoirs within the designated resource districts. Since 1990 TVA has placed an increased emphasis on reestablishing and remarking TVA property boundary lines throughout the Valley reservoir system. Limited funding and manpower have been allocated to provide an easily recognized line of orange boundary markers to assist the lake user in knowing whether or not he is on TVA public lands. Wheeler Reservoir alone has over 1,063 miles (1,710 km) of shoreline to monitor. However, the agency recognizes this project as basic toward educating the public and a proactive step inpreventing future encroachments and violations. TVA has identified as its highest priority approximately 3,000 miles (4,827 km) of shoreland Valleywide where traditionally conflicts with boundary identification have created problems. The agency is currently refurbishing about 300 miles (483 km) of boundary line each year. The continued maintenance of boundary signs, monuments, corner markers, and painted survey lines is a never-ending task but is paramount when considering TVA's responsibility as a public land steward.

Public Issue or Concern: What can citizens do to help TVA manage public lands better?

TVA Response: TVA's public lands belong to all of us, and it is important that they are managed properly. If someone observes these lands being used improperly (e.g., as a trash dump), he should contact TVA. Also, be aware of the proper procedures for making alterations on TVA land. Any alteration made in TVA waterways or on TVA land requires TVA's advance written approval. Remember, public lands are your lands; treat them as such.

1. Become involved in reservoir land management plan development or water quality plans and assessments by participating in the public workshops and public review meetings.

2. Request an opportunity to review public documents and provide written or oral comment for TVA to consider or address.

3. Help organize a lake user group, i.e., organize and conduct a shoreline cleanup, a boating safety program, a soil conservation project, or a water quality monitoring project in your area.

To report improper use of public lands on Wheeler Reservoir or for more information regarding alterations or assistance in developing lake user projects, please contact the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management office, 119 County Road 412, Town Creek, Alabama 35672, (205) 685-4200 or 685-4205.

Public Issue or Concern: Is TVA considering acquiring additional land for public use?

TVA Response: Under a new land management stewardship initiative, TVA is focusing on upgrading its reservoir land base and may consider purchasing additional property, if there are willing sellers involved and if the purchase can be justified for public benefit. As part of the planning process, the planning team was given the assignment to identify potential tracts of land for possible acquisition. To accomplish the request, the planning team created a list of criteria to assist in the selection of candidates for TVA management consideration. One or more criteria were used to justify the selection of potential candidates.

Criteria Used to Select Tract Candidates for TVA Land Acquisition

1. To emphasize acquiring environmentally sensitive tracts or unique natural and cultural resources.

2. To increase public benefit and otherwise accomplish TVA programmatic objectives or land management activities.

3. To identify tracts owned by a willing seller or landowner who would be receptive to entertaining an offer from TVA rather than pursuing condemnation procedures.

4. To place a high priority on purchasing road access to TVA-retained land that presently has no legal public access. This would expand management options and increase public benefit.

5. To increase the size of a tract currently owned by TVA that has physical site limitations and cannot accomplish desired resource management goals or realize the property's full potential.

6. To increase limited ownership of TVA public land in order to facilitate partnerships with other agencies or groups that will enhance public benefit, i.e., boat access, industrial sites, recreational areas, commercial development, etc.

7. To purchase, when available, inholdings or contiguous tracts of land that would enhance unified land management opportunities and decrease potential land use conflicts by connecting parcels of TVA fee-owned property.

8. To increase federal ownership of shoreline to help prevent the loss of valuable riparian habitat and to curb point and nonpoint sources of pollution.

9. To exercise repurchase options as stated in contract agreements if the property has not been developed in accordance with the terms of the deed.

Public Issue or Concern: Is there TVA land that is not beneficial to the agency or the public?

TVA Response: As part of TVA's initiative to upgrade the quality of its reservoir land base, TVA management requested the planning team to identify and recommend tracts of agency land that could be surplused or disposed of. During the planning process, the planning team selectedand field inspected 15 tracts which appeared to qualify as candidates. These tracts ranged in size from 32 acres to 0.2 acres (13 ha to .080 ha). Several of these tracts are isolated from the reservoir or are small remnants of TVA fee-owned property that appear to have little public value or natural resource management potential. The tracts were selected by using the following criteria.

Criteria Used to Select Potential Tracts For Possible Sale or Transfer

1. Tract size (acreage) and condition (land use/land cover).
2. Tract location (isolated from the lake or a major tributary).
3. Marketability (potential buyers identified).
4. Adjacent land use of private property (commercial, agricultural, residential, etc.).
5. No apparent TVA program interest in the tract.
6. Poor tract capability and/or suitability (based on TVA program criteria).
7. Accessibility by land (poor or nonexisting road access).
8. Conflict, if any, with existing conditions related to recorded resource data.
9. Potential for future public benefit considering resource data, capability/suitability data, public input, agency input, etc.

Reservoir Land Management Plan Goals and Objectives

Introduction

Land management goals and specific objectives for Wheeler Reservoir were created by input from public comments and TVA staff. The goals and objectives are ***not listed in priority order based on their level of importance***. They are listed to correspond to the land use allocation matrix found on each plan map (sheet 1-7). From left to right, the land uses shown in the matrix generally begin with the greatest investment or physical development and end with land uses representing less development and fewer user impacts due to resource sensitivity.

In addition, emphasis placed on land management strategies applied to TVA public lands are represented as near equal in importance across the entire range of land uses shown in the plan matrix.

The reservoir planning issues, concerns, goals, objectives, and related discussion are as follows:

Economic Development Goal

To Promote Environmentally Sound Economic Development On Wheeler Reservoir

While economic development is most commonly associated with land uses, such as industrial, navigation, or commercial recreation development, the various resource management land uses also contribute significantly to area economies. For example, wildlife management attracts hunters and nonconsumptive wildlife users who spend money at area retail establishments. Similarly, proper management of the reservoir's visual resources or aesthetics will help to maintain and enhance the area's attractiveness for recreation and tourism activities, which also provide area economic benefits.

Objective No. 1

To encourage new industry to locate on adjacent private land and use designated corridors across TVA land for access to the reservoir.

Planning Team Discussion: The six counties adjacent to the reservoir are represented by three regional economic development districts or regional council of governments (COG). Lauderdale County is represented by the Northwest Alabama COG; Limestone, Madison, and Marshall Counties are represented by the Top of Alabama Regional COG; and Lawrence and Morgan Counties are represented by the North Central Alabama Regional COG. These legally constituted state and federally designated multicounty planning organizations provide a forum for local elected officials to present and resolve area-wide problems and issues. Traditionally, these COGS develop regional development strategies or action programs focusing on community improvement, employment opportunities, and orderly and efficient growth.

Representatives of the planning team met with both multicounty COGs and local county and regional industrial and economic development organizations. A concept embraced by many of these groups was to have TVA preserve a link or transportation corridor from backlying private property to the reservoir. Many of these executives realized that much of the land needs for commercial or industrial development would have to be met on private land. Past experience has shown that it is less efficient to commit miles of public shoreland for the development of one or two large industrial complexes. Industrial development on TVA land is often complicated by such limiting factors as the small size of TVA tracts, steep topography, floodprone areas, or lack of localized infrastructure. Wheeler Reservoir exemplifies this situation. Currently, TVA has limited land resources remaining on Wheeler Reservoir capable of or suitable for industrial development. However, in some locations, TVA land can provide potential access to the reservoir in support of backlying private land development. Regional and area-wide planning documents now encourage the development of industrial parks away from the reservoir shoreline where land costs are lower and property availability is greater. Examples are Huntsville/Triana, Decatur/Athens, Courtland, and Rogersville. Working in partnership with regional COGs and their respective economic development plans, the planning team has allocated four tracts (Tract Nos. 12, 14, 22, and 64) for industrial access to assist in facilitating future development plans for these counties adjacent to Wheeler Reservoir.

Objective No. 2

To provide sites for navigation facilities to meet current and future needs for commercial water transportation.

Planning Team Discussion: Much of the strategy placed on developing commercial and industrial parks on backlying private property rests on the availability of facilities that allow an industry to take advantage of waterborne transportation. Barge terminals, fleeting areas, minor commercial landings, and safety harbors or landings are examples of the type of facilities normally used to provide support for such development.

To provide the planning team additional information relating to area-wide facility needs, discussions were held with the following agencies: the Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority; the North Alabama Industrial Development Association; the Morgan County Industrial Development Association; and the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority. In cooperation with input from these organizations and local county and community officials, the plan provides sites for future navigational needs. The planning team has allocated five tracts (Tract Nos. 12, 14, 22, 66, and 27) capable of supporting new development or expanding existing barge facilities.

Tract No. 201 is allocated as a fleeting area and is often used by local commerce for temporary mooring. Increased use of this facility is likely from the new river port recently developed by the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority. The port and adjacent Mallard-Fox Creek Industrial Park are regional "showcase" examples of how government and private enterprise can work in partnership to promote planned economic growth. The new port provides badly needed waterfront services, while minimizing shoreline disturbance and environmental impacts associated with land and water resources.

The planning team also allocated three tracts (Tract Nos. 26, 163, and 166) as minor commercial landing sites. The tract located on the Elk River may require some site preparation for full development but has excellent road access via U.S. Highway 72. The other two minor commercial landing tracts are located along the south shore of the Tennessee River, east and west of the Whitesburg Bridge (Highway 231), and have good road access. Depending on the amount of short-term storage needed, some additional private property may be required because the shape of these tracts is long and narrow at this reach of the river. Water depth and shoreline attributes are suitable at all three sites.

TVA Navigation Operations has designated 4 first-class harbor areas, 11 first-class landings, 2 second-class landings, and 5 clusters of federal mooring cells throughout the 74-mile reach (119 km) of Wheeler Reservoir. The planning team has allocated 13 navigation safetyharbors or landings as compatible uses fronting TVA lands (Tract Nos. 3, 4, 8, 9, 20, 72, 76, 77, 102, 158, 163, 184, and 200). Some tracts were allocated solely for navigational use, while other large tracts reflect a multiple allocation of land uses. Normally, few constraints are placed on land activities or development for the larger tracts. However, in every case there are rigid restrictions on the approaches, water space, and shoreline use within such navigation safety designations. This is done to promote a safe environment for the user, avoiding conflict with shoreland or floating obstructions that are recognized as safety hazards.

Objective No. 3

To locate new industrial development near existing industries to minimize the environmental and aesthetic impact.

Planning Team Discussion: Public interest recorded at the three workshops showed that participants valued the creation of new jobs. However, those in favor of new industry expressed feelings that any new industries be environmentally safe and clustered in a location near existing industries, i.e., near Decatur or Champion. Proponents recognized that, by clustering such development, the costs of infrastructure, such as roads, rail service, and utilities could be shared. Traditional opponents of industrial expansion, on the other hand, recognized the benefits, in terms of resource conservation, of directing such development to specific areas rather than spreading development throughout the entire reservoir. Consequently, a single 88-acre tract (36 ha) of public land (Tract No. 64) is allocated as an industrial site.

Recreational Development Goal

To Help Provide For A Diversity Of Quality Recreation Opportunities On Wheeler Reservoir

Objective No. 4

To identify sites for future quality commercial recreational development.

Planning Team Discussion: The plan recognizes the importance of providing a variety of facilities, services, and locations to give the recreation visitor a range of choices. Presently there are two major resorts operating on Wheeler Reservoir—Joe Wheeler State Resort Park and Lucy's Branch Resort. In addition, the boating public is served by seven major marinas and two small boat dock operations. The greatest need for additional marina and resort development is near the two largest metropolitan areas, Huntsville and Decatur. Through communication with city and county officials, the planning team is aware of progress and plans taking place locally to expand and develop new commercial recreational facilities near both of these major cities. A major expansion at Ditto Landing near Huntsville includes additional camping and picnicking pavilions, expansion of the marina harbor basin, and a doubling of dry boat storage space. A later development phase may include a golf course.

The city of Decatur is planning to offer an opportunity for private investors to develop a large marina and convention facility near Point Mallard Park. The center will provide quality meeting and lodge facilities to attract and accommodate new business, industry, and tourism interests to the area. The marina will provide badly needed space for large boat storage to relieve the overcrowded conditions at the Decatur Municipal Boat Harbor.

With future commercial needs being met locally for the middle and upper reaches of the reservoir, the planning team focused on the lower regions of the reservoir for potential commercial sites. Four tracts were allocated (Tract Nos. 21, 67, 88, and 91) to meet plan objectives.

Boatslips and dry storage are nearing capacity for small craft on Wheeler Reservoir. The market appears to be strong for covered wetslips to accommodate large boats. Many of the marinas on Wheeler Reservoir, such as Decatur Harbor, Ditto Landing, Madison County, and Joe Wheeler State Park currently have long waiting lists for owners seeking space for large boats exceeding 21 feet (6.4 m) in length.

Of the four tracts allocated for commercial recreational development, the two having greatest potential are Spring Creek embayment and TVA's Mallard Creek Public Recreation Area. Even though Mallard Creek is allocated for commercial recreation, TVA has no plans to change its status in the near future. However, if economic conditions dictate a change over the next ten-year planning period, TVA could consider it feasible to operate the area under a concessionaire arrangement rather than choosing the alternative—closing the area to public use.

During the tract evaluation process, TVA Recreation staff ranked the land capability for Tract No. 21 as excellent, but the suitability was considered poor because the location is so close to two existing resort operations. Therefore, the tract was requested by Recreation as a

medium land need tract. The planning team recognizes the public could be better served if all three resort operations were not located on the same side of the reservoir and within 6 miles (10 km) of each other.

The final tract is located near the TVA Mallard Creek Public Recreation Area, and it could support a small commercial development or be combined with the facilities currently provided at the TVA recreation area as an expanded facility.

Objective No. 5

To identify sites for future development of public recreational facilities.

Planning Team Discussion: The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends a minimum standard of 6.25 acres (2.5 ha) of open space/park area per 1,000 population. The six-county area adjacent to Wheeler Reservoir should have approximately 3,594 acres (1,454 ha) available for public recreation, based on 1990 populations. To help meet the standard, TVA has allocated 16 tracts totaling 1,006 acres (407 ha) for public recreation. This acreage combined with other major public recreation areas, like Joe Wheeler State Park (2,500 acres [1,012 ha.]), Decatur Point Mallard Park (750 acres [304 ha]), TVA/ state lake access areas (approximately 202 acres [82 ha]), Madison County's Ditto Landing (165 acres [67 ha]), and Boat Harbor Park (96 acres [39 ha]), exceeds the standard by 1,175 acres [476 ha]. Numerous smaller city and county parks and recreation areas, not included in the above-mentioned total, also provide public recreational opportunities for the six-county area.

If "open space" lands for public use are also added to the Wheeler Reservoir total, the maximum NRPA standard of 10.5 acres (4.2 ha) per 1,000 population would far exceed the 6,037 acres (2,443 ha) recommended. The public lands adjacent to the reservoir that provide such opportunity are as follows:

TVA - noncommitted public land:	
(less acreage for public recreation)	10,278 acres (4,160 ha)
State of Alabama Wildlife Management Area:	
Swan Creek	3,045 acres (1,232 ha)
Mallard/Fox Creek	1,616 acres (654 ha)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:	
Wheeler National Refuge	34,500 acres (13,962 ha)
Estimated open space acres	49,439 acres (20,008 ha)

Collectively, there are large acreages of public lands under governmental management on Wheeler Reservoir. However, TVA public lands are, for the most part, scattered and relatively small in size. Nevertheless, the planning team attempted to address the principal issue recorded at the three public workshops concerning public recreation.

Public Issue or Concern: TVA should develop more public recreation areas for camping, picnicking, and boat access.

TVA Response: Many participants at the public workshops voiced a strong opinion of the need for more basic recreational development, such as camping, swimming, and picnicking facilities. Participants also stressed the need for better maintenance of existing facilities and control of littering, vandalism, and general misuse.

Funding for facility additions has been extremely limited over the past decade. Prior to 1990 several TVA public use facilities remained closed or unmaintained because of an inadequate level of maintenance funding. Recent focus has been directed toward maintaining and upgrading existing TVA recreation areas. Improved parking, restroom additions, and safety equipment for swimming areas are examples of TVA's latest effort to improve the quality of its existing facilities to better accommodate present visitor demand. If funding were available, TVA would like to consider development plans to expand camping at Round Island and Spring Creek. A long-range proposal for development of Tract No. 25 on the Elk River for public recreation has also been suggested by TVA Recreation planners.

In communication with local county officials, the planning team found a strong interest in providing basic public recreational opportunities for the citizens within their county and the Wheeler region. The planning team elected to allocate lands for future partnerships with cities or counties that are capable and suitable for public and commercial recreation development.

A strong appeal was made to TVA from Limestone County for expanded development of Lucy's Branch County Park. TVA land was also allocated at Spring Creek to provide Lawrence County a future public recreation opportunity. Madison County has requested use of TVA land along the Flint and Tennessee Rivers for development of a portion of a county-wide greenway trail system. The President's Commission on American Outdoors reports ". . . greenway corridors and open space in and between communities that connect existing and new parks are the 'missing link' in our current system of outdoor recreation areas."

Objective No. 6

To improve existing access points for boat launching on the lake and identify additional sites for development where needed.

Planning Team Discussion: At present, TVA has five improved (paved) lake access sites on Wheeler Reservoir, including one each at Goldfield Branch, Mallard Creek Public Recreation Area, and Round Island Public Recreation Area; and two below Guntersville Dam Reservation. A sixth TVA public boat ramp is located below Wheeler Dam on the TVA dam reservation at the tailwaters of Wilson Lake. In addition, Alabama Game and Fish has developed 13 improved lake access areas. Many of the access areas developed by the state are located on TVA public land or on Wheeler Refuge lands. The state has provided a quality service to the public and works hard to maintain its facilities.

Data from the three public workshops revealed that the participants placed a moderate value on lake access. Generally, the public response was favorable toward the location and year-round condition of existing public access areas around the lake. On the other hand, TVA

received the greatest criticism relating to the design and maintenance of a few specific lake access facilities.

The greatest number of citizen complaints recorded were directed toward three lake access areas—Twin Rivers, Lucy's Branch, and Round Island (Cow Ford). However, Round Island is the only facility constructed and maintained by TVA. While located on TVA public lands, the other two boat ramps and parking facilities were developed by "second party" interests that no longer maintain them.

The plan has identified 15 tracts (Tract Nos. 6, 16, 19, 23, 36, 37, 47, 65, 69, 73, 79, 88, 91, 92, and 156) that will provide both improved and unimproved access to the lake.

The planning team recommends that highest priority be given to improving existing TVA facilities, such as the wind-shear problem at Round Island ramp and the development of a new facility on Tract No. 16 east of Lambs Ferry Road. Next, priority should be given to the structural and visual improvement of the Twin Rivers access area. The planning team also recommends that TVA work in partnership with Limestone County and Lucy's Branch Resort to redesign and construct a new public lake access area adjacent to the county park. Final priority should be given to maintenance or restoration work toward a select number of informal lake access areas, based on available funds and areas receiving the greatest public use.

The planning team recognizes the greatest need for lake access on Wheeler Reservoir is along the south shore at Decatur. TVA, however, does not have land available in this area. City and county officials are hopeful they can work with private industrial leaders and organizations to identify property like the abandoned Ingalls Shipyard site, which could provide land to support public waterfront recreation opportunities at Decatur.

At the Cotaco Creek floodway public listening session, held at the Cotaco School, June 20, 1991, county commission officials suggested to TVA staff that Morgan County seek ways to offer its citizens in the eastern part of the county a suitable recreational area and safe lake access for recreational boating. This concept could also provide a recreational outlet for the nearby community of Laceys Spring. At the Wheeler public workshop held in Decatur, local citizens and town officials (Laceys Springs) requested TVA provide suitable land resources for development of a public park and lake access. TVA would consider working with Morgan County and area communities to meet a request for developing a public lake access area at Johnson's Landing (Tract No. 156).

Objective No. 7

To identify opportunities for one or more stream corridor protection areas to preserve the aesthetic and natural values inherent in riparian environments.

Planning Team Discussion: Many tracts of TVA planned land are located along creeks that receive intermittent flooding. Because of the availability of these lands, TVA has an opportunity on Wheeler Reservoir to preserve a resource that will grow in importance as north-central Alabama becomes more intensively developed. TVA's Recreation staff identified three candidates suitable for river corridor allocation—Flint Creek, Cotaco Creek, and Flint

River. The planning team identified Flint Creek as having the best potential to demonstrate both the economic and social benefit of river corridor development for recreation. Soon thereafter, EPA Region 4 District Office in Atlanta, Georgia, in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies, also identified Flint Creek as one of two regional water quality projects. This partnership of government agencies, strengthened by local community support, will provide the catalyst necessary to implement a diverse list of water quality project objectives.

Some of the agencies involved are:

- Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service (ACES)
- Alabama Agriculture and Industry (AL Ag. & Ind.)
- Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Soil and Water Conservation District—Cullman and Morgan (S&WCD)
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
- United State Geological Survey (USGS)

TVA is actively participating on the Flint Creek Steering Committee providing technical expertise and assisting in the collection of resource data for the watershed project. The official Flint Creek watershed project's "kick-off" was held at Wheeler Refuge auditorium on April 17, 1993, in conjunction with the Morgan County litter cleanup event and Earth Day activities.

As part of TVA's commitment to the total watershed project, the Wheeler Plan has allocated approximately 9 miles (14 km) of river corridor and 819 acres (331 ha) of adjacent public lands. The plan allocated Tract Nos. 128 and 132 as river access sites on Flint Creek. Four other allocated river access sites (Tract Nos. 142, 151, 176, and 182) will be reserved for TVA or other agencies to develop as safe public access areas to enhance public use on Cotaco Creek and Flint River.

Madison County has approached TVA with plans to develop two river access areas allocated on Flint River. One site is west of Hobbs Island Bridge (Tract No. 182) and the second proposal includes plans to expand and improve an informal boat ramp adjacent to Cloud Cove Road (Tract No. 176).

Objective No. 8

To designate TVA public land throughout the reservoir area for undeveloped or informal recreational use, such as hiking, hunting, picnicking, bank fishing, and bird-watching.

Planning Team Discussion: Participants at the three public workshops highly valued the scenic attributes of Wheeler Reservoir. Traditionally, the public has selected sites free from development to enjoy the lake and adjoining natural resources. The Alabama State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and workshop participants expressed a need for scenic, open space areas to allow for low-density, passive recreational opportunities. Consequently, 18 tracts (1,113 acres [451 ha]) are allocated for informal recreation.

Examples of tracts on Wheeler Reservoir that have historically received moderate-to-heavy use by the public are as follows:

Tract No.	General Area
20	The Rock point at the confluence of the Tennessee and Elk Rivers
36	Shoemaker Springs
38 & 39	Elk River Mills Bridge
69	Swoope Pond
71	Spring Creek Embayment
75	Goldfield Branch Embayment
76	The Old Lawrence County Park Site
110	Decatur Day Use Area (north of Keller Bridge)
154	Lewis Bluff
202	Shoal Creek

Natural Resource Management Goal

To Manage, Improve, And Protect Forest, Fisheries, Agricultural, And Wildlife Resources On TVA Lands For Future Generations

This plan recognizes agriculture, forest, and wildlife resource management as long-term uses for TVA public lands on Wheeler Reservoir. An integral part of the protection of these resources is TVA's ability to demonstrate proper management practices on TVA lands and educate the public. The ten-year planning horizon allows time to evaluate the results of land management decisions often representing significant investments by TVA's resource staffs, nonprofit organizations, cooperating landowners, and other government agencies. Even though the plan's primary focus is land management, the shoreline, water quality, and fishery resources are impacted by allocated activities that take place on adjacent lands; therefore, the planning team felt it prudent to discuss fisheries and related water quality issues as recorded from public workshop sessions. Specific objectives related to natural resource management on Wheeler Reservoir include:

Objective No. 9

To preserve prime farmland by keeping these lands in agriculture or other natural resource uses, such as forested conditions and wildlife habitat.

Planning Team Discussion: TVA is committed to preserve prime farmland resources on reservoir lands. Consequently, the plan allocates nine tracts (469 acres [190 ha]) for agriculture (prime farmland). The agency has integrated into the planning process consideration of impacts or loss of prime farmland consistent with the Federal Farmland Protection Policy Act, recognizing the importance of this resource. TVA manages this resource to prevent unwarranted conversion of important farmland to other uses. Resource data were collected and evaluated for each tract in terms of land use allocations that would impact prime farmland. Prime farmland was acknowledged in the tract descriptions of all plan lands where the appropriate soil classifications and hydrological conditions comprised 75 percent or more of the surface area. Irreversible uses such as commercial recreation or industrial development were only considered on tracts with little or no prime farmland. The planning team did not consider agriculture as a land use allocation in the following circumstances:

1. Where the tract was confined to a narrow shoreline strip needed for visual screening, riparian habitat, or other conservation uses;

2. Where agriculture practices would have a negative impact on other attributes of a tract, such as disturbance of significant historic or archaeological resources;

3. Where most or all of the tract was forested and likely to remain so for ten or more years, in which case the prime farmland resource would remain protected by a compatible land use;

4. Where periodic flooding would make agricultural activities a contributor to soil erosion and chemical runoff, accelerating nonpoint source pollution conditions and impacting water quality.

This criteria offered the planning team some flexibility to allocate a tract for other compatible uses and still preserve the prime farmland resource for future reserve beyond the ten-year planning period.

Objective No. 10

To initiate conservation programs for idle or unlicensed agricultural lands through reforestation and/or establishment of early successional wildlife habitat.

Planning Team Discussion: To meet the objective, TVA has placed over 453 acres (183 ha) of retired agriculture licenses located on reservoir lands into open land management for wildlife habitat or reforestation programs. Much of the land that TVA licenses for pasture, hay, or row crops has marginal soils at best. Some parcels, having a long history of farming activity, have become worn out and are no longer useful to the licensee and are often returned to TVA in rather poor condition. TVA anticipates fewer licenses being renewed over the next ten years because of more rigid conditions placed on the farmer (licensee) as a result of TVA's current BMPs.

To help offset additional financial burdens placed on the farmer, TVA has, in some cases, accepted specific land treatments as part of the annual rental fee. Among these treatments are fertilizing, liming, no- till planting, and sharecropping. The term "sharecropping" means the farmer agrees to leave a portion of the crop for wildlife food and habitat.

Most TVA agriculture licenses are issued for a five-year term and are considered an interim use. Normally they only occupy a small parcel of a larger plan tract. Each tract description will reference the presence of an existing agriculture license. However, the plan matrix will exhibit AGRICULTURE as the formal land use allocation. There are some cases where agriculture licenses are issued on prime farmland tracts. Because of the constant change in status of agriculture licenses for this interim land use, agriculture licenses are not shown in the plan matrix.

Objective No. 11

To manage TVA forestlands to perpetuate a healthy and diverse forest environment for resource production, protection, and demonstration.

Planning Team Discussion: Tracts allocated on Wheeler Reservoir for forest management fall into two land management categories.

1. Multiple-use forest management, and

2. Pine plantation management

These two categories are inherently different in relation to most of their natural attributes, e.g., site requirements, growth rates, maturation age, rotation length, etc. For this reason, management strategies must also be different. Timber stands allocated for multiple use will be managed for production of timber products consistent with other TVA staff objectives, e.g., wildlife habitat, recreation, aesthetics, water quality, and natural and cultural resource protection.

Tracts allocated for pine plantation or natural pine stands will be managed intensively for the production of paper fiber and other timber products. In some locations, new plantations will be established. Wheeler Reservoir presently has over 1,400 acres (567 ha) in pine plantations. Much of the pine was planted by the CCC in the mid-1930s and early 1940s, primarily for erosion control and old field stabilization. These plantations are now financially mature and should be harvested.

As a resource conservation and protection effort, TVA uses its forested lands for research and demonstration. The tools and techniques applied on TVA lands are also applicable to forestlands held by private landowners. The plan identifies 51 tracts for forest management, 37 tracts allocated for forest multiple-use management representing 5,546 acres (2,246 ha), and 14 tracts allocated for forest pine plantation management representing 1,422 acres (575 ha).

Public Issue or Concern: What is TVA doing to manage its forestlands?

TVA Response: TVA manages approximately 147,000 acres (59,491 ha) of forested reservoir lands Valleywide. This does not include TVA power properties (nuclear and fossil fuel plants) or Land Between The Lakes. The goal of TVA Forestry is to ensure a continuous, healthy, diverse, and productive forest that will provide multiple-use benefits for present and future generations. A centralized forestry planning and support staff works directly with personnel in the 11 TVA Land Management Offices (LMO) to inventory and assess management needs.

In 1981 a process whereby all TVA-managed lands are visited every ten years to assess management needs was initiated. Forest prescription recommendations are presented to other TVA resource staffs (Recreation, Wildlife and Natural Heritage Resources, Cultural Resources, Water Quality, etc.) for approval, modification, or denial. As part of TVA's Forestry prescription process, an EDR is completed for each forest compartment prior to implementation of actual forest management activities. Actions that are approved are then carried out by the district foresters. Some of these activities include thinning, controlled burning, planting of both hardwood and pine, regeneration, and herbicide application to control undesirable vegetation. In addition to these activities, district foresters work with TVA's Property Management staff to help protect public lands by identifying unauthorized tree cutting, vegetation removal, encroachments, and other violations.

Objective 12

To protect and manage game and nongame wildlife habitats for appropriate public use and enjoyment.

Planning Team Discussion: Wildlife resources on Wheeler Reservoir are a conglomerate of complex systems, including major wildlife groups, species associations within these groups, and individual species requiring specific management practices and considerations. Wheeler Reservoir lands provide a diversity of habitats, ranging from open lands to mature upland, cove, and bottomland hardwood forests and include a variety of wetland types. Maintaining habitat diversity is essential to the survival of a variety of wildlife species.

Wildlife data were analyzed for each plan tract, and many of those containing important wildlife habitats were allocated for wildlife management. The public strongly values the reservoir's wildlife resources as adding to the natural beauty of the area and enjoys seeing wildlife along the shoreline. Others value the hunting opportunities that the reservoir provides.

The plan allocates 74 tracts, approximately 7,000 acs. (2,835 ha) of TVA land for wildlife management. Many of the wildlife tracts are also allocated for other compatible uses, such as forest management and visual management.

Public Issue or Concern: What is TVA doing to improve wildlife habitat?

TVA Response: TVA develops and implements strategies for ensuring protection of both game and nongame wildlife resources on agency lands, allowing for appropriate public use and enjoyment of these resources. Wildlife management specialists conduct a variety of programs for maintaining and improving open land and woodland wildlife habitat (both upland and wetlands). On approximately 11,000 acres (4,452 ha) (Valleywide) of lands licensed for both row and sod crops, TVA ensures consistent application of agricultural BMPs and, where practicable, includes tract-specific provisions for improving wildlife habitat.

On forestland TVA implements forest management prescriptions that improve wildlife habitat while protecting sensitive resources, such as wetlands and threatened and endangered plant and animal populations. TVA cooperatively manages some 15,000 acres (6,071 ha) of specially designed wetlands and subimpoundments that help support more than one-half million ducks and geese that winter in the Tennessee Valley and has made more than 192,000 acres (77,702 ha) of its land and water available to state and other federal agencies for wildlife management and public recreation purposes. TVA also conducts cooperative wildlife reintroduction and restoration activities involving rare species or those with declining populations, such as the river otter, gray bat, bald eagle, golden eagles, osprey, peregrine falcon, great blue heron, great egret, eastern bluebird, wood duck, and barn owl.

Objective 13

To maintain agreements providing lands for state wildlife management areas and to evaluate opportunities for similar agreements with other agencies and organized groups.

Planning Team Discussion: Out of 37 characteristics most valued by the public relating to Wheeler Reservoir, wildlife habitats and game management areas rated fourteenth.

Approximately 4,661 acres (1,886 ha) of land on Wheeler Reservoir are currently licensed to Alabama Game and Fish for wildlife management purposes. A 3,045-acre (1,232-ha) area known as Swan Creek is located along the northern shoreline and west of U.S. Highway 31 and was licensed to the state under a 30-year long-term agreement in 1978. In addition to the land resource (see plan maps 2 and 5), Swan Creek wildlife management area incorporates a large water surface area (5,825 acres [2,357 ha]) outside the channel of the reservoir, between Tennessee River mile 300.1 and Tennessee River mile 304.4. This area also includes the Harris-Sweetwater dewatering area.

A second state wildlife management area, Mallard/Fox Creek (1,616 acres [654 ha]), has been operating under a short-term (60-day) license agreement with TVA. A 1980 EIS record of decision provided the foundation for TVA and the state of Alabama to make a commitment

toward granting a longer-term tenure similar to the 30-year arrangement implemented at Swan Creek. The two agencies are currently working out a final agreement.

Because of this long-standing commitment, TVA staff and management agreed not to include the TVA lands within the wildlife management area in the current Wheeler Reservoir planning process and to continue honoring the 13-year-old EIS commitment. These tracts will continue to be used for wildlife management and public recreation.

As part of the objective, TVA also evaluated opportunities for similar agreements with other agencies and organizations concerning long-term use of TVA lands for wildlife management or related uses.

A specific request from the Alabama Waterfowl Association (AWA) was evaluated by TVA's Wildlife and Natural Heritage staff and by the planning team. The proposal included a number of ideas for use of plan Tract No. 62 located in Limestone County, known as the abandoned Elk River fish hatchery site. AWA requested a long-term (99-year) lease from TVA for the 201-acre (81-ha) tract.

The FWS field office at Auburn has also shown an interest in the tract for a moist site vegetation experimentation and outdoor research laboratory. The abandoned fish ponds and levees offer suitable research facilities regarding the study and development of biological and chemical controls for nuisance aquatic plant species.

TVA's Wildlife biologists place a high priority on riparian wildlife habitat and adjacent wetlands located on the tract. On the drier sites, TVA's Wildlife practices "open land management" techniques to enhance and demonstrate the use of old field or brushy type habitats to benefit bobwhite quail and cottontail rabbits.

TVA's Cultural Resources also places a high priority on the tract and has requested it through the planning process. Cultural Resources requests the opportunity to preserve a portion of the fish pond structures as part of the historical record, interpreting reservoir-related activities associated with the overall development of the Wheeler Reservoir project. Reservoirwide, few remnants of significant historical structures are found on agency land. Wheeler Dam, the adjacent construction village, and the fish hatchery are examples of such structures.

The planning team therefore recommends TVA retain ownership and control of this property and manage it under its land stewardship program initiatives. TVA should cooperate with other agencies such as the FWS and AWA to promote the area for waterfowl management, habitat research, and wildlife demonstrations.

Objective 14

To minimize adverse land use impacts on fisheries by encouraging proper management through education and demonstration on public lands.

Planning Team Discussion: The plan recognizes the importance and public value of fisheries and fishing opportunities. Fishing was ranked as the fourth highest activity or use recorded by public workshop participants. Even though this is a land management plan, the planning team wanted to reassure the public that during the land use allocation process a conscious

effort was made to protect the commercial and sport-fishing resource. During tract evaluation and analysis, the planning team considered the impact of land use activities on adjacent water resources.

When applicable, each tract description identifies significant fisheries resources information, such as mussel sanctuaries or major spawning areas fronting a specific tract of TVA public land. This advanced knowledge will alert anyone reviewing the tract for future use of any significant attributes associated with land or aquatic resources. For example, prior to implementation of a particular forestry, wildlife, or agricultural management activity, TVA would review the tract's relevant data and select the proper BMP to: (1) accomplish the task achieving a particular planned benefit and (2) provide a demonstration showing the proper method to conserve the resource, especially the impact on adjacent water quality. Similar to a land management approach, TVA manages its reservoir (water) system for multiple uses.

The 1933 TVA Act specifically defines TVA's priorities for managing the Valley's waterways. TVA is obligated to operate the reservoir system primarily to promote navigation, flood control, and to the extent consistent with these purposes for power production. TVA also operates the reservoirs in a manner that preserves the environment and protects water quality.

TVA uses the priority system to make water resource decisions; however, many conflicts among uses do arise. For example, lakeside residents want to keep reservoir pool levels up for ease of access to the lake and to maintain aesthetic beauty, but drawdown is necessary to reduce mosquito populations, allow for drainage ditch maintenance, and for flood control in the winter. There are also limits on how fast water can be released from the reservoir and not affect wildlife and fish populations. Fishermen want more constant flows downstream of dams to maintain fish habitat, but to use hydropower as a cheap supplement to other power sources during peak demands requires storing the water and intermittently releasing it. Power production can also conflict with fishing. Low levels of dissolved oxygen in the reservoir releases; changes in volume, particularly pulsing of flows; and fluctuations in water temperature all affect fish populations downstream. Fishermen also want less aquatic plant control in reservoirs so fishing will be better, but they want areas around the docks free of aquatic vegetation.

Many conflicts arise from trying to utilize our water resources for the maximum benefit of all. Proper planning for multiple-use management attempts to reduce these conflicts to obtain optimum use of our water and land resources.[6]

Objective No. 15

To identify sites or greenways for resource interpretation and environmental/ecological study areas near urban centers.

[6] "Multiple-Use Management," fact sheet, No. 2, TVA, Office of Natural Resources and Economic Development (RBO), November 1988.

Planning Team Discussion: Small Wild Areas are natural areas on TVA lands preserved for public enjoyment. TVA recognizes that areas or features with natural or scenic significance are valuable assets of the Tennessee Valley region. Sites are selected on the basis of particularly interesting and unique natural features, such as old-growth timber, waterfalls, caves, ravines, scenic views, and unique plant life. The agency is now studying four areas on Wheeler Reservoir as candidates for TVA Small Wild Areas.

Participants at all three public workshops highly valued the importance of "Wildlife Observation and Habitat Preservation," as well as "Environmental Awareness and Educational Opportunities." Out of 37 categories, the above values were priority ranked as third and sixteenth, respectively. To help meet this need, four tracts (196 acres [79 ha]) are capable and suitable for TVA Small Wild Areas. The tracts allocated are Tract Nos. 24, 40, 126, and 143. General locations are the mouth of Elk River, Big Creek on the Elk, Flint Creek, and Cotaco Creek, respectively. Most of these areas offer outstanding examples of mature hardwood forest with a variety of wildflower displays.

Alone, TVA is unable to do all things necessary to inform and educate the public as it relates to conservation and environmental issues. TVA is encouraged by the number of agencies and organizations who want to form responsible partnerships to help provide opportunities for the public to participate in environmental awareness programs.

Some examples of projects currently being considered by TVA are as follows:

1. A proposal by Athens State College to develop an environmental awareness research center and biology field station on Tract No. 112. The center would contribute to public awareness of environmental problems, e.g., accommodate small groups of elementary, high school, and college-age students for the purpose of providing them with information on the conservation status of endangered/threatened plant and animal species native to the North Alabama-South Central Tennessee region. Seminars or forums for the purpose of presenting information or sharing views regarding particular environmental issues and training others might also be developed.

2. Madison County and the city of Huntsville have developed plans for a long-distance hiking trail to link with an inner-city greenway trail system. TVA is considering a request for a trail corridor on public lands following Flint River to Wheeler Reservoir. The proposed trail route, prepared by the Madison County Department of Planning and Economic Development and the National Park Service, will pass through the best example of large, mature, bottomland hardwoods found on the entire reservoir. There are numerous opportunities for conservation and nature interpretation along the route and at access locations. The county plans to provide a trail access at the proposed canoe access site south of Hobbs Island Bridge (Tract No. 182).

3. Morgan County and the Tennessee Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council have requested a site on Flint Creek (Tract No. 128) for a school-based environmental education field station. The proposal includes a controlled parking area, short interpretive trail, boardwalk for taking water monitoring samples, and an information open pavilion.

4. Conservation organizations such as the AWA also work in partnership with TVA to provide for wildlife habitat enhancement opportunities. The AWA requested a tract of land on the Guntersville Dam Reservation to develop a wetlands project. Even though the project had merit, TVA could not allow such activities on the dam reservation. The tract requested is also outside the Wheeler Reservoir study area and could not be addressed under this lands planning project. TVA's Wildlife will continue to work in cooperation with AWA and the Alabama Game and Fish on other demonstration and enhancement projects.

Environmental and Cultural Resource Protection Goals

Environmental: To Protect And Conserve The Environmental Quality Of The Reservoir And Adjoining Lands

Cultural: To Protect And Preserve The Cultural Resources Of The Reservoir And Nearby Areas

TVA's land management goals for protecting sensitive cultural amenities and environmental quality of the reservoir area can in some situations affect other land management goals. Recognizing the interrelationship between these resources and other land uses, relevant resource data were carefully analyzed before any allocations were made. Furthermore, the planning team recommends all proposed development or management activities resulting from this plan be conducted in accordance with approved BMPs and all applicable legal authorities or mandates that protect these sensitive and/or unique resources.

In a situation where a tract is allocated for development purposes, i.e., industrial site, barge terminal, water treatment plant, navigation port, public recreation, commercial recreation, etc., NEPA review will be performed before any development takes place. This may require additional archaeological or threatened/endangered species testing or mitigation for adverse impacts on sensitive sites. The cost of required investigative testing or mitigation may be the responsibility of the developer.

Objective No. 16

To protect or preserve the natural beauty and visual quality of TVA public land, especially the reservoir shoreline.

Planning Team Discussion: Out of 37 categories, the participants at all three Wheeler public workshops value most the "scenic quality and shoreline aesthetics" of the reservoir. Referring to the past four land management planning studies, documentation of similar workshop results showed citizens placing scenic quality as the number one value in three plans and the second most valued characteristic in one other.

Public Issue or Concern: What can TVA do about preserving the scenic quality of the Wheeler Reservoir shoreline?

TVA Response: Some participants suggested TVA maintain an undisturbed buffer strip along the shoreline to protect it from erosion and visual pollution.

In 1983-84 TVA adopted a modified version of the visual management system originated by the USDA Forest Service and employed by most other federal agencies. This system allows planners to estimate the visual impacts of various forms of land use and management practices on the landscape, keeping in mind that some landscapes are more resilient and capable of absorbing more intense forms of development than others.

Prior to the development of the plan, TVA staff completed an analysis of the visual resources on Wheeler Reservoir and assigned a visual quality rating to each tract of TVA public land. The ratings identified (1) the distinctiveness of a landscape, (2) the visibility and level of concern for the landscape, and (3) acceptable management activity levels that could occur on the tract. (The visual quality rating system is described in more detail in Appendix B.)

During the land allocation process, each tract of TVA reservoir land, including islands, was examined and placed in one of two visual categories. These categories are Visual Management or Visual Protection. The categories will, in part, determine the type and level of development or land use that will be allowed on each tract. To date it is the best method TVA has to ensure that the scenic beauty of the shoreline is maintained, while the public is allowed maximum access to and use of TVA reservoir lands. It should be noted, however, that the agency can only control the visual impacts of activities on its own shoreline, approximately 31 percent. TVA has little or no influence on development on the remaining 69 percent of the shoreline.

Based on TVA's analysis, the planning team allocated 130 tracts (8,962 acres [3,627 ha]) for visual management, requiring that visual considerations be built into any management or development plans for those tracts. Additionally, 28 tracts (625 acres [253 ha]) were allocated for visual protection, which permits virtually no visual impact activities.

Public Issue or Concern: What is TVA doing about cleaning up the litter and debris along the shoreline?

TVA Response: TVA worked with local citizen groups like "Friends of Elk River" to conduct shoreline cleanups on the Elk River portion of Wheeler Reservoir in 1989 and 1990. In addition, spot cleanups of TVA fee-owned lands near Cotaco Creek and other locations have been conducted. TVA encourages and supports volunteer activities of any kind focused on the cleaning up of shoreline areas or the prevention of littering. In addition to removing unwanted trash from the shoreline, such efforts help build awareness about the importance of keeping our waterways and public lands clean and positively influence a sense of individual and collective responsibility.

TVA can help provide needed cleanup supplies and can help with organization and special cleanup needs. Local groups and group coalitions, lake user organizations, and others wishing to take part should contact TVA's Land Management Office in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, (205) 386-2223 or write CLEANUP, Attention: Phil Mummert, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37903 or FAX (423) 632-8085. If your group is just getting started, ask for a copy of "Organizing and Conducting a Cleanup on Public Lands and Waterways."

As a demonstration, TVA purchased a mechanical "trash skimmer" in 1989 to collect and transport debris caught behind Wilson and Wheeler Dams. In the past, TVA permitted this accumulation of natural and man-made floating debris to pass over the spillways, allowing the condition to move downstream. The purchase and use of this skimming have proven to be an expensive investment. Other costs incurred relate to off-loading debris from the work barge to the shore, temporary storage for drying of material, and separating man-made materials from wood debris. However, the greatest expense is paying for the removal and disposal of trash collected to other sites. The wood material is normally deposited on remote TVA lands for decomposition and the man-made material is transported to a local landfill.

Over the past four years these expenses and problems have brought TVA to the point of reexamining the issue and seeking alternative solutions. Natural Resource Management staff still believe the best long-term solution is through educating citizens as to the magnitude of the situation and how to avoid using our public land and water as convenient dumping areas. TVA's "Land Stewardship Campaign" specifically targets the reservoir user as the key individual who must become personally responsible for taking care of our environment and not adding to the problem.

Objective No. 17

To ensure TVA's full compliance with the National Historic

Preservation Act of 1966 and of the Archaeological Resources

Protection Act of 1979.

Objective No. 18

To minimize adverse land use impacts on significant archaeological and historical resources.

Planning Team Discussion: The planning team was impressed by the number of comments that were reported at the three public workshops relating to significant cultural resources (archaeological and historical). From the list of 37 reservoir characteristics valued most on Wheeler, "Archaeological Awareness/Cultural Interpretation" was ranked 18.

Archaeological field surveys and existing state file data reveal the Wheeler Reservoir region to have an abundance of significant cultural resources. All lands within the designated study area were field tested by the University of Alabama Division of Archaeology under a TVA contract. Existing archaeological data were secured from the Alabama Historical Commission at Montgomery and from the University of Alabama's Museum of Natural History at Moundville, Alabama. A field inventory of significant historical structures and events was completed by TVA's Cultural Resources staff.

As a federal agency, TVA complies with regulations specified under the National Historic Preservation Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act to protect all significant cultural resources threatened by negative impact or destruction. Therefore, archaeological resources identified in the surveys are not published in the Wheeler Reservoir plan data base because giving precise locations might compromise the protection of the reservoir. This information remains on file at TVA's Cultural Resources office in Norris, Tennessee, and is only released to qualified researchers and institutions. Survey data provide useful information to help the planning team make decisions related to compatible uses on planned lands. These data also support land use allocation decisions limiting adverse effects on significant archaeological sites and/or historic structures located on private lands adjacent to TVA. Using an accepted sampling technique, field investigations were performed to increase the knowledge of presence or absence of sensitive cultural resources. The lack of such references in a specific tract description does not necessarily guarantee that significant cultural resources do not exist. The use of any tract for developmental purposes may require additional archaeological testing or mitigation of adverse impact to an archaeological or historical site. The costs of required testing or mitigation may be the responsibility of the developer.

The planning team has allocated 68 tracts (4,784 acres [1,936 ha]) for cultural resources protection. Some of these tracts have archaeological resources on them; however, few of the tracts have physical historical structures currently intact. Some of the tracts, i.e., Tract Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9, offer protective buffer areas against undesirable uses that could affect the integrity of adjacent historic sites or structures existing on backlying land, i.e., the Wheeler Dam and construction village.

Public Issue or Concern: Why is it illegal for people to pick up arrowheads or other artifacts on TVA land?

TVA Response: Removing artifacts from TVA land is a violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979. This federal law makes it a crime to dig for or remove any archaeological resources from TVA and other federal land. Archaeological resources are defined as any material remains of human life or activities that are at least 100 years old and are of archaeological interest. Collection of arrowheads from the surface is not a violation of ARPA, but it is an illegal taking of government property. For further information regarding archaeological resources on TVA land, contact J. Bennett Graham, Chief Archaeologist, TVA Cultural Resources, Natural Resources Building, Norris, Tennessee 37828, (423) 632-1583.

Objective No. 19

To designate sites providing long-term protection for sensitive plant and animal species and unique or unusual communities currently under, or recommended for, state or federal protection.

Planning Team Discussion: Numerous rare or sensitive plant species are located in the Wheeler Reservoir area, and their habitats could be destroyed by improper management, heavy public use, or inappropriate development. As a federal agency, TVA is subject to the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, which concerns the preservation or conservation of animals and plant species identified as endangered or threatened.

Additionally, TVA also considers those animal or plants species listed as special concern by states within the Valley. Some reservoir lands, streams, and reaches of the Tennessee River are used by the gray bat, Indiana Bat, Eastern hellbender, spring pygmy sunfish, pink mucket pearly mussel, and other wildlife species of state and federal concern. Since protection of these unique habitats is important in maintaining the environmental quality of the area, the plan allocates six tracts, totaling 443 acres (179 ha), for habitat protection areas (Tract Nos. 33, 112, 125, 177, 187, and 190).

Objective No. 20

To preserve and protect existing wetlands and riparian habitats.

Planning Team Discussion: Wetlands and riparian habitats are areas of great natural productivity, hydrological utility, and environmental diversity. Such areas provide natural flood control, improved water quality, help to recharge aquifers, stabilize flow of streams and rivers, and enhance fish and wildlife populations.

TVA is providing leadership by taking action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and riparian habitats on Wheeler Reservoir through diverse management

approaches. Because of increased pressures on public lands, agencies like TVA are being held accountable for the protection of wetlands and riparian habitat resources. As a federal agency, TVA is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 to consider the impact of its actions on wetlands. Requirements and/or compliances for use of public land are changing to reflect the protection of our natural resources. Application processes like Section 26a approvals or agricultural license BMPs are reflective of stricter guidelines supporting responsible use and management activities on federal lands.

Most of the islands and much of the narrow (less than 75-foot [22.9-m]) strips of shoreline have been allocated for nondevelopmental resource management land use activities. Additionally, portions of the larger embayments have been allocated for land uses which will complement the objective of preserving wetland resources, i.e., wildlife management, visual management, cultural resource protection, etc. An additional benefit from such land allocations as shown in the plan is the protection of shoreline from erosion.

Public Issue or Concern: What is TVA doing about shoreline erosion?

TVA Response: To answer this question, we must first look at what causes shoreline or bank erosion. This is not a new phenomenon. Shoreline erosion is a natural process, but activities by man have accelerated the rate at which it occurs. When dams are built, their backwaters create an unnatural situation in which areas that were once woodland hills or fields are suddenly shoreline. These new shorelines are then subjected to a variety of actions that cause their erosive soils to wear away. The most common causes of erosion are wave action from barges and recreational boaters, livestock watering in and along the lake, high water and flood releases from upstream reservoirs, removal of shoreline vegetation, and natural erosion from rainwater.

TVA is currently monitoring shoreline erosion and is in the early stages of addressing the causes. TVA is asking lakefront landowners to minimize or avoid removal of shoreline vegetation. Livestock access to lake shores from TVA-owned land is being restricted by modifications to agricultural licenses that prevent water access or require nongrazing uses of the property, such as hay cropping.

TVA is also experimenting with floating islands that act as breakwaters to reduce the wave energy which damages shorelines. These islands are constructed of plastic pipe and wire and are planted with native vegetation, such as cattails, hibiscus, and water willow. The islands are being tested on Chickamauga Reservoir and will be evaluated over the next several years. An additional benefit of these islands is the fish habitat provided by the root balls that extend below the water surface.

Shoreline erosion occurs throughout most artificial reservoir systems, and Wheeler, with over 1,000 miles (1,609 km) of shoreline, is only a small piece of the TVA system. Demonstrations are being developed to study various shoreline restoration treatment techniques. The use of natural or "living" stabilization systems, sometimes referred to as Bioengineering, is being considered along with traditional approaches such as riprap. Emphasis is being placed on vegetation management within a shoreline buffer zone to help prevent erosion before it becomes a stabilization problem. There is no economical way to control all shoreline erosion, but TVA continues to look for cost-effective ways to stabilize critical areas, such as industrial and residential areas, sensitive archaeological sites, and recreational parks.

Objective No. 21

To help protect and enhance water quality through appropriate land management activities and cooperation with partnership agencies and organizations.

Planning Team Discussion: Tracts with high soil erosion potential were identified through interpretation of soils data. Highly erodible sites were often allocated for nondevelopmental uses, such as forest management or wildlife management, visual protection, etc., to minimize soil disturbance protecting primary and secondary watersheds located on a plan tract. Participants at the three public workshops ranked "Clean Water" and "Quality Water Supply" as the fifth and ninth most important values out of 37 reservoir characteristics prioritized by the public. Consequently, TVA continues to place increased priority on improving the water quality of the entire Tennessee River System. TVA's corporate strategic plan for 1992-1999 focuses on five key areas: work force, energy, environment, river, and community partnerships. The corporate goal for the river is "to provide leadership to make the Tennessee River the cleanest and most productive commercial river system in the United States by the year 2000."

Public Issue or Concern: Why isn't TVA doing more about water quality?

TVA Response: Wheeler Reservoir has been the focus over the past four years for a great deal of TVA water quality monitoring and research. In 1990 TVA documented many of its findings in three technical and nontechnical reports. The reports are Water Resources Issues Analysis: Wheeler Reservoir Watershed Region, January 1990; Water Resources Review: Wheeler Reservoir, September 1990; and Status of Wheeler Reservoir: An Overview of Reservoir Conditions, September 1990.

On a regional level, TVA is actively involved in water quality for the entire Tennessee River system. Regulatory authority for controlling pollution sources rests with the seven Valley states and local governments. Nevertheless, TVA works closely with these agencies to see that identified problems are resolved as quickly as possible.

In 1990-91 TVA implemented a Vital Signs Program for the entire Tennessee River Reservoir System. The publication resulting from this work is called RiverPulse. Copies of the report are available through TVA's Water Management.

Physical, chemical, and biological monitoring provides information on the overall health of the water and aquatic resources and provides an early warning of impending problems. Results of this monitoring are provided to the states to evaluate how effective their regulatory programs are in protecting uses such as water supply, recreation, and fishing.

In 1992 TVA began a water quality assessment on Wheeler Lake. This assessment will provide additional information to supplement routine monitoring. It will allow for the development and application of a water quality computer model that will be used by the state of Alabama in reviewing discharge permit requirements for cities and industries that discharge treated wastewater into Wheeler Lake.

Along with discharges from cities and towns (point sources), Wheeler Lake receives considerable waste input from nonpoint sources, such as agricultural activities, e.g., soil erosion and livestock waste, construction, and urban runoff. TVA works with U.S. Department of

Agriculture (USDA) agencies, such as the NRCS, to prioritize pollution sources for cleanup and to speed up control through demonstration of technical solutions. A recent example of this type of program is the cleanup of Bear Creek near the town of Bear Creek, Alabama. There a recreational floatway had been closed to recreational use for six years because of runoff from animal waste. Through cooperative efforts among the state, USDA agencies, and TVA, it was cleaned up and the floodway reopened in 1990.

A similar multiagency effort began (1992) on Flint Creek to help improve the water quality, recreational and educational potential, and general appearance of this tributary. The Region 4 EPA office in Atlanta was directed by its Washington office to select two candidates for regional watershed protection projects. The Atlanta office evaluated and selected the Savannah River between Georgia and South Carolina and Flint Creek in Morgan and Cullman Counties, Alabama. TVA, along with other federal, state, and local agencies, shared in the official kick-off on April 17, 1993.

In February 1991 TVA began implementation of a Lake Improvement Plan for TVA tributary dams, providing for minimum flows and improved dissolved oxygen concentrations in the releases from these dams. This plan will greatly improve water quality and aquatic biology in over 300 miles (483 km) of streams below TVA tributary dams.

Another innovative project being tested by TVA to improve water quality is the design and development of subsurface constructed wetlands. These artificial wetlands provide simple and effective wastewater treatment for domestic, agriculture, industrial, and mining waste-waters. The wetlands can be constructed at a much lower cost than conventional treatment systems. A demonstration wetland has been built at the Chattanooga Nature Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The most current agency effort is TVA's assault on water quality concerns that were identified from the monitoring work reported in the 1991 RiverPulse publication. In January of 1993 TVA announced the first 3 of 12 areas where TVA River Action Teams will attempt to solve water quality problems. The first three teams will target the Hiwassee and Holston watersheds in East Tennessee and the Wheeler/Elk Watershed in south-central Tennessee and north Alabama. The action teams will identify problems, suggest solutions, and bring together individuals and organizations necessary to improve the health of the water resources in each location. For more information about TVA's Wheeler/Elk River Action Team, please call (423) 751-7318.

Objective No. 22

To promote the wise use and development of floodplain areas along the reservoir.

Planning Team Discussion: Undeveloped floodplain land provides many natural resources and functions of considerable economic, social, and environmental value. Such areas often contain wetlands and other important ecological areas as part of a total functioning system that impacts directly the quality of the local environment. The values and benefits include natural wildlife habitat, improved water quality, enhanced erosion control, and reduction of flood levels.

As a federal agency, TVA uses its authority in avoiding, to the extent possible, the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and the direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. TVA takes such actions as might be necessary to reduce the risk of flood loss; minimize the impacts of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial resources contained within floodplains.

TVA initiates a floodplain review for any action affecting TVA fee-owned properties or properties for which TVA owns certain landrights. Actions that are typically reviewed include Section 26a permit applications; transfers, sales, or exchanges of fee-owned lands; and NEPA-related reviews.

Forestry Plantation situated on the Elk River Embayment located on Wheeler Reservoir, May 1950.

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Planned Land Uses

Planned Land Uses

The 203 tracts of land shown on the enclosed land management plan maps were allocated for one or more of the land uses described in this section. The descriptions establish the general limits of activities or management which can take place on tracts allocated for each use.

Other public land uses (highways, utility corridors, etc.) will be considered on all of the plan tracts and approved by TVA where appropriate. Future sites for such facilities cannot be identified but will be addressed when a specific proposal is made to TVA.

The following 21 LAND USE CATEGORIES are listed under four planned land use divisions (economic development, recreation development, resource management, and environmental and cultural protection). The land use categories will be shown in like manner on the enclosed land management plan map matrix. All land uses and management activities must be consistent with TVA's environmental policies and BMPs to ensure that environmental quality is both considered and protected during the development and management of Wheeler Reservoir lands.

Economic Development

Industrial Site

Tracts allocated for industrial sites will be considered for development of waterfront industries. These sites would be conveyed to a developer at fair market value either at public auction sale in fee or by negotiated easement sale. TVA assistance may include feasibility studies, promotional brochures, industrial site planning, technical training, and technical assistance.

Industrial Access

On tracts allocated for industrial access, owners of private backlying lands could be permitted access across TVA property for water intake, wastewater discharge, or conveyance of commodities (i.e., natural gas pipelines, rail, or road). Industrial access is usually compatible with other uses, such as forest management and wildlife management, and these tracts may serve as a buffer between the shoreline and backlying industrial development.

Barge Terminal Site

Tracts allocated for barge terminal sites will be considered for public or private use. Such facilities will be used for the transfer, loading, and unloading of commodities between barges and trucks, trains, storage areas, or industrial plants. These sites would be conveyed to private entities at fair market value either at public auction sale in fee or by negotiated easement sale.

Special-purpose barge terminals are associated with specific industrial plants and owned or operated by one or more industries. Such terminals are not usually available to other shippers. Multipurpose terminals are for general commodity facilities and are available to any shipper for a fee. Multipurpose terminals can be publicly or privately owned and may provide other services, such as commodity storage.

Fleeting Area

Tracts allocated for barge fleeting areas will be used to anchor offshore mooring facilities (cables, buoys, or cells). Barge fleeting areas are used by the towing industry to switch barges between tows or barge terminals. Fleeting areas are generally needed at the junction of two waterways close to a large number of barge terminals or near a navigation lock.

Minor Commercial Landing

Tracts allocated for minor commercial landings will be considered for public or private development of small-scale barge facilities. These sites can be used for transferring pulpwood, sand, gravel, and other natural resource commodities between barges and trucks. Since this use is intermittent and usually not a major activity, there would generally be no significant impact on adjacent land uses. No permanent improvements will remain on the property and the land will be restored to its natural condition.

Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing

Tracts allocated for safety harbors or landings will be used for tying off commercial barge tows and recreational boats during adverse weather conditions or equipment malfunctions. A harbor area is normally an inlet or small embayment, whereas a landing area is a relatively straight length of shoreline fronting deep water. These areas are designated by TVA and identified in the official USACE's Tennessee River Navigation charts. (See 1995 Wheeler chart nos. 41-51; Elk River nos. 42, 98, and 99.)

Recreation Development

Commercial Recreation

Tracts allocated for commercial recreation will be reserved for developments requiring water frontage. Facilities may include marinas, docks, launching ramps, rental cabins, trails, lodges, pools, campgrounds, restaurants, and other tourism-related outdoor recreation facilities.

On tracts available for new commercial recreation developments, TVA will seek private investors with the financial and managerial capability to develop large-scale facilities that can become destination points for tourists and local reservoir users. To encourage high-quality private development, TVA may provide such incentives as assisting with conceptual site planning or conducting market assessments. TVA may also provide technical assistance to existing commercial operators who are interested in upgrading their facilities.

Public Recreation

Tracts allocated for public recreation will be considered for development by a municipal, county, state, regional, or federal agency. TVA will consider developing or expanding selected public recreation facilities, i.e., Mallard-Fox Creek or Round Island, as funds are available, and in areas where facilities are needed, but at this time no other agency is in a position to develop these TVA sites.

Public recreation tracts are intended to support a wide range of recreation activities. Such tracts might be developed with swimming beaches, picnic pavilions, toilets, roads, camp-

grounds, parking lots, game and court areas, launching ramps, and trails. Large public recreation areas may have onsite managers to collect user fees and provide security and other customer services.

Lake Access

Tracts on the mainstream reservoir allocated for lake access will be considered for development and/or maintenance of boat ramps, courtesy piers, and car and trailer parking areas to provide public boating access to the reservoir. TVA should take the lead in developing water access tracts, but development and maintenance could be shared with other federal, state, county, or local agencies. However, most of the public launching areas on Wheeler Reservoir have been developed by Alabama Game and Fish.

River Corridor

River corridor tracts will be allocated and managed for dispersed recreation activities, such as fishing, boating, picnicking, informal camping, and wildlife observation. These areas are normally linear or narrow and are different from other recreation lands in the aesthetic and natural values associated with the river environment. In order to maintain these natural values, development in designated river corridor areas will be limited to boat access at specific areas, riverside trails, and interpretive activities.

River Access

Tracts allocated for river access are typically located in riverine environments appropriate for development and/or maintenance of boat or canoe access facilities (ramps, steps, etc.), vehicle parking areas, fishing access trails, and picnic areas. Islands and tracts located on the tributary rivers and creeks will be considered for river access. TVA will take the lead in promoting river access tracts, but development and maintenance could be shared with other federal, state, county, or local agencies.

Informal Recreation

Tracts allocated for informal recreation will be maintained for passive dispersed recreation activities, such as hunting, hiking, bird-watching, photography, primitive camping, bank fishing, and picnicking. Buildings, access roads, docks, or other development that would tend to concentrate public use will be discouraged. Forestry, agriculture, and wildlife management activities will be permitted as long as they do not limit public use of the land or drastically alter the physical characteristics of the land base.

Resource Management

Agriculture

Tracts allocated for agriculture will be managed to preserve their potential for agricultural use, promote increased agricultural productivity for row crops or pasture, and demonstrate multiple-use developments compatible with preservation of prime farmland. They contain a significant (75 percent or more) amount of prime farmland. These tracts will be available for agricultural licensing to local farmers, with restrictions to protect topsoil, prevent erosion, and benefit wildlife.

In addition to those tracts specifically allocated for agriculture, many tracts allocated for other long-term uses are suitable for interim agricultural licensing. Oftentimes these licenses are issued for land that is not prime farmland. In these cases, the tract description will indicate what portions of the tract will be considered for agricultural licensing.

Some tracts which contained prime farmland were eliminated as candidates for agriculture using the following criteria: (1) the tract was confined to a narrow shoreline strip too small for farming practices and was needed for a protective buffer or visual screening, (2) agricultural practices would have a negative impact on other attributes of the tract, such as identified threatened or endangered species or archaeological sites, (3) where most or all of the tract was forested and likely to remain so for ten or more years, therefore protecting the soil conditions and hydrologic characteristics, (4) where periodic flooding would make agricultural use a contributor to soil erosion and nonpoint source pollution, or (5) where agricultural practices would conflict with other objectives of the plan, such as preserving the scenic quality of the reservoir shoreline.

Forest Management

Tracts allocated on Wheeler Reservoir for forest management will fall into two land management categories:

1. Multiple-use forest management and

2. Pine plantation management.

These two groups are inherently different in most aspects of their natural history (site requirements, growth rates, maturation age, rotation length, etc.), as well as their management strategies.

Multiple-Use Forest Management: Tracts allocated for multiple-use forest management support forest stands composed of hardwoods or mixed pine/hardwoods. A mixed stand is one composed of conifer (pine) and hardwood trees, where between one-third and two-thirds of the dominant and co-dominate trees are pine. Timber stands allocated for multiple use will be managed for production of timber products consistent with other TVA staff objectives, e.g., wildlife habitat, recreation, aesthetics, water quality, and natural and cultural resource protection. All of the accepted silvicultural treatments are considered and are utilized in appropriate situations. Treatments include, but are not limited to, timber stand improvement, improvement cuts, groups selection, seed tree, shelterwood, etc. Additional management activities considered are planting, erosion control, cattle exclusion, road construction/reclamation, herbicide application, disease and insect monitoring and control, etc. A multidisciplinary TVA team will decide which management treatments to apply on each tract to benefit the forest resources and complementary uses. As part of TVA's Forestry prescription process, an EDR is completed for each forest stand prior to implementation of actual forest management activities.

Pine Plantation Management: Tracts allocated for pine plantation or management will be managed intensively for the production of timber products. This will be achieved by increased management efforts in both natural pine stands and plantations. Treatments will also be performed to establish new plantations. Thinning and controlled burning activities will be

conducted regularly on plantations that are not mature, while mature stands will be scheduled for harvest and regeneration. Silvicultural activities for the establishment of new plantations include intensive site preparation with heavy equipment and planting with improved loblolly pine seedlings. Naturally occurring and annually regenerated pine stands are valuable resources that provide a variety of options for the forest manager. Although these stands are generally less desirable from an economic standpoint than planted pine, they can approach planted pine in financial returns. Natural regeneration can be achieved in a variety of ways, but most of these methods include periodic controlled burns prior to harvest to reduce hardwood competition and prepare a mineral seedbed. The next step is to produce an adequate amount of annual seeding to regenerate fully stocked stand. This can be achieved through a variety of harvests including seed-tree harvest, shelterwood, group selection, and clearcut. The site preparation costs are virtually eliminated by using natural regeneration; however, a fully-stocked stand is not guaranteed and is dependent on uncontrollable factors such as weather and adequate seed production. By using seed-tree and shelterwood harvests, these two risks can be minimized, because seeding can occur over a number of seed years and weather conditions. A multidisciplinary TVA team will decide which management treatments to apply on each tract. As part of TVA's Forestry prescription process, an EDR is completed prior to implementation of actual management activities.

Wildlife Management

Tracts allocated for wildlife management will be managed to protect and enhance wildlife habitats and restore depleted or regionally rare populations of certain species. To accomplish these management objectives, TVA will work closely with federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and other cooperating organizations, such as AWA and others. In select cases, TVA will make tracts available to the Alabama Game and Fish for wildlife habitat management, with tenure based on demonstrated need and submission of acceptable wildlife management plans.

Each tract will be managed for a featured group or groups of wildlife species (upland wildlife, wetland wildlife, or waterfowl) or, in some cases, a particular wildlife species. Tract-specific, detailed management plans will be developed to enhance or preserve habitat conditions required by the featured group or species.

Habitat improvement will be achieved through wildlife provisions in agricultural license agreements, forest management prescriptions, cooperative agreements with other organizations, and activities funded by TVA's Wildlife and Natural Heritage. Selected tracts may be used to demonstrate or develop innovative wildlife management techniques, such as vegetation manipulation in selected sloughs and embayments to enhance waterfowl habitat, management of existing wading bird colonies and restoration of selected species, and expansion of raptor restoration work. Tracts containing unique concentrations of easily observed wildlife may be developed as public wildlife observation areas. In some cases, especially on small or disjunct tracts, protection or maintenance of existing habitat conditions will be the best management alternative.

Small Wild Area

Tracts allocated for Small Wild Areas have exceptional natural, scenic, or aesthetic qualities and will be available for dispersed, low-impact types of outdoor recreation, such as hiking, primitive camping, nature photography, and bird-watching. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Development may include foot trails, signs, parking areas, and primitive camping sites. Efforts will be made to encourage public use and to interpret the natural features of these areas for visitors.

Environmental and Cultural Protection

Visual Management and Visual Protection

Management or development proposals for tracts allocated for visual management must include provisions for maintaining or enhancing the quality of the visual resources of the tract, in accordance with visual resource management recommendations contained in Appendix B. This allocation does not preclude any otherwise acceptable management or development activity.

On tracts allocated for visual protection, TVA intends to restrict activities that would alter unique or important visual resources. This allocation is normally considered incompatible with developmental uses.

Cultural Resource Protection

On tracts allocated for cultural resource protection, TVA will protect and/or interpret significant remnants of the prehistoric and historic past. These tracts may contain archaeological or historic features, or they may provide buffers to preserve the settings of structures of historic or architectural significance. This allocation precludes any uses that would damage or destroy the cultural resources or diminish the public's appreciation of the cultural values of the tract or adjacent land.

Habitat Protection Area

Tracts allocated as habitat protection areas will be managed to protect populations of species that have been identified as threatened or endangered by FWS or are considered rare in the state of Alabama. Unusual or exemplary biological communities or unique geological features also receive protection by being placed in this category. Management activities that are not specifically designed to perpetuate the featured species or that would jeopardize the ecological quality of the site will not be permitted. Heavy public use is discouraged, and motorized vehicles are prohibited.

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Reservoir Tract Allocations

Reservoir Tract Allocations

This section describes the use or uses determined to be most suitable for each tract of TVA land as shown on plan maps 1 through 7. A planned tract is the numbered parcel of TVA fee-owned land which, prior to the plan, has had no long-term commitments affecting future land uses as assigned through the reservoir lands planning process. The tract descriptions include acreage rounded to the nearest tenth and the planned land uses. Relevant data regarding the planned use(s) are provided for each tract and include existing land uses, physical characteristics of the land, physical capability of the tract to support the planned use(s) (excellent, good, fair, or poor), and any special considerations related to the future use.

The planned uses for each multiple-use tract are listed, and each use will be given ***equal status*** during implementation of the plan. The capability ratings are based on specific criteria for each use. Appendix B: The Data Base contains descriptions of the capability criteria.

Tract Descriptions

Tract No. 1 - (7.2 acres [3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located in the upper reaches of Second Creek, south of Mount Bethel Road and northwest of a cluster of two islands. It almost appears to be part of a tract with the islands. Because of its low elevation, the tract lies within the 100-year flood elevation and often receives seasonal flood waters. During wet conditions, the northwestern boundary of the tract fills along an old streambed transporting overflow to Second Creek. Soil interpretation on the tract is considered as prime farmland. The capability for forest multiple use is good as a result of soil productivity; however, because of frequent flooding and because there is no road access, the suitability is low for both agriculture and forest management. This bottomland tract provides good quality wetland furbearer, nongame, and small and big game habitat. Because of the limited access, it receives little hunting pressure. The tract is covered with mostly hardwoods and is categorized as a forested wetland. Much of the adjacent private land use is pasture and shrub/brush land cover. Visual quality objectives are protected through visual management to the site.

Tract No. 2 - (15.4 acres [6.2 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located in the upper reaches of Second Creek, south of Mount Bethel Road, and is comprised of one large and one small island. Both islands are within the 100-year flood elevation and often receive seasonal flooding. Neither island has been classified as prime farmland. The soil interpretation is classified as medium for forest management productivity. Even though forest capability is good, the absence of direct road access and the frequent flooding allow low suitability for forestry. On the other hand, the forested wetland, with its isolation from human disturbance, offers good capability, and it is suitable for supporting water bird resting and feeding areas and also for wetland furbearers. Visually, the tract is reported as a common class, but it is classified as sensitive because its scenic quality is visible on two sides from neighboring private residential developments. No threatened or endangered species were identified during the tract survey, and no cultural resources are present on or immediately adjacent to the tract.

Tract No. 3 - (11.2 acres [4.5 ha])

- Planned Uses: Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Public Recreation
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

The tract is located at the mouth of Second Creek on the right bank. An unimproved dirt road provides access to the site from county Highway 101. The tract is now being used for informal recreation. A large metal TVA transmission tower is situated on the shoreline. The soils are classified as highly erodible, with forest soil productivity ranked as medium. Most of the tract is covered with second growth hardwood timber. There are six mooring cells constructed of sheet piling fronting the tract. These are infrequently used but are available for barge mooring during locking operations or as a safety harbor. TVA's Navigation Operations has classified the shoreline as restricted and will not consider development of private water use facilities along this tract. The tract is suitable for public recreation and would allow for future expansion of facilities similar to those found on Tract No. 4, adjacent to and south of this tract. Because the tract is considered part of the Wheeler Dam reservation, it is also considered historically significant. Wheeler Dam and construction village (built 1933-1936) are both historically significant structures and eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The tract is significant because it offers a visually protective buffer for the adjacent historic resource.

Tract No. 4 - (15.5 acres [6.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Public Recreation
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This TVA-retained developed tract is located at the mouth of Second Creek on the right bank. TVA has developed for public recreational use a small public recreation picnic area and campground on this tract, with 33 camping sites and a toilet building. The camping sites are paved but have no utility hookups. Access to the campground is by paved road from County Highway 101. TVA power transmission lines cross the tract along the northwest boundary. Soils are classified as highly erodible, with approximately 20 percent of the tract identified as prime farmland. Approximately 60 percent of the tract is covered with second growth hardwood timber. The forest soil productivity is ranked medium. The two navigation mooring cells which front the tract are periodically used by towboats locking through Wheeler Dam lock. Because of this activity, TVA's Navigation Operations has designated the area fronting the tract as a first-class safety harbor and shoreline development is not permitted. Because this tract is considered part of the Wheeler Dam reservation, it is culturally significant. Wheeler Dam and construction village (built 1933-1936) are a historically significant complex and eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The tract is significant because it offers a visually protective buffer for the adjacent historic resource.

Tract No. 5 - (8.2 acres [3.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

The tract is composed of three islands all located downstream of Wheeler Dam. The longer island, closest to the right bank and navigation lock, is covered with scrub shrub vegetation around its riprap parameter and the central portion is mostly open. The eastern end of the island supports a metal TVA power transmission tower. All three islands have highly erodible soils and are within the 100-year flood elevation. On two locations near the long island, aquatic snails have been identified; the snails are considered by the state to be of special concern, and one is under review for federal status.

The short island, closest to the dam spillway, is little more than a pile of rock with a few young trees piercing the rocky surface. The third island, round in appearance, also supports a metal TVA power transmission tower. It is partially covered with scrub shrub vegetation and the shoreline fortified with stone. All three islands and shoals are used by gulls as a wintering and resting area. Fishermen frequent these areas while sport fishing. The principal use for these islands, other than to support existing transmission lines, is the visual benefit offered protecting the historic resource of Wheeler Dam. The entire complex, including the lock, dam, powerhouse, and construction village, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tract No. 6 - (13.1 acres [5.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Lake Access
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This TVA-retained developed tract is located between Wheeler Dam Powerhouse Switchyard and the mouth of Big Nance Creek, along the left bank of the Tennessee River. The southern backlying boundary abuts Joe Wheeler State Park. A paved road provides access from County Highway 101. Current uses are lake access, bank fishing, and other day use recreational activities. The site, locally known as "Wheeler Southside Tailwater," supports the following development: a parking area for use by fishermen, five or six picnic tables, a toilet building, a boat ramp, and a boat trailer parking lot. TVA powerlines cross the eastern portion of the tract adjacent to the switchyard. Approximately 80 percent of the area is outside the 100-year flood elevation, and soils are classified as not highly erodible.

The riparian zone along the western end of the tract and downstream to Big Nance Creek provides wildlife habitat for wetland furbearers and wood ducks. Two species of plants found near the southwest boundary just off the tract, staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) and climbing bittersweet (*Celastris scondonc*), are of special concern by the state of Alabama. The tract is also significant as a visual buffer for protection of the dam and powerhouse. The latter, built in 1933-1936, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tract No. 7 - (0.2 acre [.08 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for an easement

- Relevant Data:

This small tract was once the site for a water tank built to serve the Wheeler Dam construction village. TVA retained the tract when the village was transferred to the state of Alabama for Joe Wheeler State Park. The tank was later removed after the park was connected to the public utility. The tract is currently being used as a small playground for park visitors. Access is provided by a paved park road. The soils interpretation has been identified as prime farmland; however, the tract is too small for an agricultural license. A stand of pole-size loblolly pine completely encircles the tract. Adjacent to the tract is a small tree species (yellowwood) considered of special concern by the state of Alabama. Because of the tract's location within the historic Wheeler Dam construction village, TVA's Cultural Resources staff requested that the site be allocated for Cultural Resource Protection. The Wheeler planning team agreed with the need for protection; however, the planning team recommends the entire tract be transferred from TVA to the state as part of the existing park. The state is managing the balance of the historic village, and this small remnant should be included as part of the cultural resource.

Tract No. 8 - (4.0 acres [1.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract combines two small and narrow (approximately 100-foot [30.5-m]) parcels along the shoreline. Both parcels have highly erodible soils and are covered with scrub brush vegetation along a rocky point at the mouth of Second Creek. There is no access to the tract except by foot trail or water. Both parcels abut Joe Wheeler State Park. The northern end of the larger parcel is bisected by a TVA transmission powerline right-of-way. The smaller parcel supports a navigation day board and light. The larger parcel has been retained by TVA for use as a first-class navigation safety harbor. TVA's Navigation Operations has restricted the shoreline adjacent to the safety harbor and the navigation light and would need to review, prior to approval, proposed shoreline alterations to the tract.

Tract No. 9 - (3.5 acres [1.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a narrow strip (approximately 100 feet [30.5 m] deep) and is located on the right bank at the mouth of First Creek. The tract has highly erodible soils and is part of a mixed pine/hardwood stand of timber. There is no access to the tract except by water. The timber tract abuts Joe Wheeler State Park and was retained by TVA as a first-class navigation safety harbor. The shoreline fronting this tract has been identified by TVA's Navigation Operations as restricted and does not allow for the development of water use facilities. The opposite shoreline, across from the tract and at the mouth of First Creek, is also designated as a first-class safety harbor which restricts development along the shoreline.

Water quality concerns associated with land use fronting the tract describe it as sensitive to pollution. Because this embayment is so limited, extra effort should be made to protect the water quality. Any additional discharges, concentrations of residential development, or marina development could affect the water quality criteria for swimming or other water-related recreational use. Removal or alteration of timber or vegetation could have a direct effect on water quality. Other considerations for limiting cutting of current vegetation are for the protection of the visual qualities of the adjacent state park.

Also fronting the tract is the submerged site of the former navigation canal and Lock No. 1, part of the second Muscle Shoals canal system. Construction was started on the 11 locks and 2 canals in 1875 and completed in 1890. The lock was constructed to replace an earlier system constructed to circumvent the many dangerous shoals prior to the TVA navigation system of dams and locks now in use on the Tennessee River. This area is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The tract is a remnant of TVA public land which could be used to interpret this cultural resource.

Tract No. 10 - (16.3 acres [6.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Informal Recreation
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is comprised of two shoreline parcels on either side of a small embayment at Tennessee River mile 278 between Freeman Acres and Wheeler Dam Subdivision. The soils on both parcels are highly erodible, but soil types are ranked medium for forest soil productivity. Currently, the eastern parcel is covered by hardwood timber with a small percentage mix of pine. Much of the natural ground cover and young understory trees have been removed by adjacent landowners. In some locations few tree saplings remain to replace the older trees as they decline. In an isolated case, over 20 large trees were cut and removed from TVA public land. TVA proposes to replant some areas within this parcel to prevent erosion and to provide an aesthetic buffer between the shoreline and private backlying residential development. It is important to the casual lake user that TVA not allow this tract to convey the impression that it is an extension of private backyards, thereby discouraging full realization of public benefit that this public resource otherwise offers.

During the formative years of reservoir development, both parcels were reserved by TVA's Navigation Operations for a navigation safety harbor. However, TVA abandoned this use in the early 1970s because of conflicts with unauthorized private water use facilities. The embayment is still used by recreational boaters seeking shelter from storms or having mechanical difficulty. The upstream or eastern parcel is approximately 10 acres (4 ha) in size. Its land surface ranges from shoreline to TVA's property boundary approximately 125 feet to 325 feet (38.1 m to 99.1 m). The backlying TVA boundary, which abuts private land, is approximately 1,800 feet (548.6 m) long. There are 16 (100-foot-wide [30.5-m]) private lots which join TVA land. However, these property owners do not own the necessary landrights to construct private water use facilities, mow grass, cut trees, or alter the natural riparian vegetation on this parcel of public land. The parcel has no road access except across private land. Currently, there are some private encroachments remaining on the tract. Some of these include six unapproved boat ramps (four concrete, two gravel), two driveways, vehicle access roads to the lake, and a concrete retaining wall attached to a private residence. TVA has given notice and requested these encroachments be removed by the owners.

For over 30 years TVA has been working with the property owners of Freeman Acres, seeking removal of violations and encroachments on this tract. As a compromise, the Wheeler planning team suggests that TVA continue working with the Freeman Acres Property Owners Association (Association) to entertain a proposal for a 100-foot-wide (30.5-m) easement across TVA public land for the purpose of ingress to and egress from the lake. The proposed easement could allow Association members the right to construct on TVA property a community boat ramp and courtesy pier to accommodate the residents within the subdivision who seek the opportunity to gain boating access to the reservoir but would minimize the aesthetic impact of the shoreline. The Association would be charged a fee based on the fair market value of land for licensing TVA property. Otherwise, the facilities constructed by the Association would be considered open to the general public.

Before TVA would consider the approval for development of water use facilities in this situation, the Association would have to become chartered by the state of Alabama. Furthermore, the Association would need to secure, develop, and maintain a common access across private property adjoining the TVA tract. The licensed easement across TVA land would provide the Association a site to develop water access facilities and limited parking for the subdivision lake user. In addition, TVA would agree to clearly mark a 20-foot-wide (6.1-m) common corridor on agency land which would allow the Association to mow and maintain a pedestrian trail behind the abutting private residents. The trail corridor would offer an alternate route free from debris, providing a safe nonvehicular access to and from the Association easement area and boat launching facilities. The proposed development plans for the boat ramp and courtesy pier would have to be reviewed and approved by TVA and USACE through Section 26a prior to construction by the Association. The planning team recommends the written agreement between TVA and the Association provide some protection should the Association become inactive and fail to pay its license fee or maintain its facilities. Forfeiting the ramp and pier investment would leave TVA a facility to maintain with no public road access across private land. The agreement should provide for a performance bond to remove the facility if the Association should be dissolved.

The western parcel of the tract located adjacent to the Wheeler Dam Subdivision does not have the use pressure that currently occurs on the opposite shoreline. The 6-acre (2.4-ha) parcel is approximately 350 feet (106.7 m) deep and has a shoreline length of approximately 1,500 feet (457.2 m). The subdivision road terminates at the northwestern end of the parcel and could easily provide access to TVA property. The parcel is covered with a dense stand of mixed hardwood and pine timber. The soil is highly erodible but has been stabilized by the existing vegetation. The timber cover also provides excellent habitat for forest-related wildlife. TVA's Navigation Operations has identified both the east and west shorelines at the mouth of this embayment as restricted areas for navigational concern because the navigation sailing line for commercial barge traffic is close to the river bank near the embayment.

Tract No. 11 - (121.0 acres [49 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is approximately 70 percent pine and 30 percent hardwood. The soils are medium in productivity, and north- and east-facing slopes predominate. The net present value of the pine is over $1,200 per acre and the hardwood approaches $1,000 per acre. Access to road, large tract size, and prior forestry investment make this tract a high land need for forest multiple-use management. Yellowwood (*Clodrostis kentuckia*), listed as of special concern by the state of Alabama, is found along the northwestern boundary of the tract. Forestry activity should not impact this population because the plant falls within the protective visual buffer along the shoreline. Because of the tract size and the upland timber condition of this tract, wildlife habitat is excellent and wildlife management activities will continue on the tract. This tract supports a moderate amount of small and big game hunting use.

Significant cultural resources are located on this tract which will require coordination of activities by TVA's Forestry and Wildlife with Cultural Resources. Aesthetics on this visibly prominent tract may be of some concern when considering forestry prescriptions. Visual management should be performed in keeping with sound forestry and wildlife management practices. Pine thinning and other intermediate treatments will have minimal effects on the aesthetic integrity of the tract.

A historical feature (saddle dam) located offshore, but submerged under Wheeler Reservoir, is part of a canal and lock system known as "Lock No. 1," which was constructed prior to the TVA navigation system to circumvent the many shoals. It is eligible for the National Register and is well protected by the deep water fronting the tract. It would be prudent to immediately contact TVA's Cultural Resources if any offshore disturbance is witnessed.

Both the Lawrence County Economic Development Authority and the North Central Alabama Regional COGs have for years considered the backlying private property suitable for industrial use. However, since the county has no zoning, it is difficult to pinpoint industrial locations. Currently, economic development occurs where land is available because of willing sellers of the backlying private property. Though requested for a barge terminal and industrial site, the tract was not allocated for such use because of sensitive cultural resources and its proximity to an existing residential area (Freeman Acres). This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private residential shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 12 - (47.9 acres [19.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Industrial Access
  Barge Terminal Site

- Relevant Data:

This tract is the center portion of a continuous land mass which stretches from Tennessee River mile 274 upstream to Tennessee River mile 282. Many of the visual shoreline characteristics are the same for the entire four miles (6 km). The undercut banks show signs of heavy erosion adjacent to the river, while the coves, with less steep slopes, show less erosion and are covered with heavy vegetation almost to the water's edge. The entire tract (Tennessee River mile 280) is forested and its capability for forestry is ranked as excellent. The perimeter supports hardwood timber (white oak, red oak, and hickory) averaging 50 years old. The central portion of the tract is dominated by a loblolly pine plantation of small sawtimber size. The net present value of the pine is $1,200 per acre, and hardwood is $1,000 per acre. Capability for upland forest related wildlife was also rated good.

Both the Lawrence County Economic Development Authority and the North Central Alabama Regional COGs have for many years considered the backlying private property able to support industrial use. The tract has good water depth near the shoreline and could support barge facilities. The tract is adjacent to an area that has been identified for industrial development in the past and has been considered for purchase by industrial prospects in the past. The owners of the backlying private property were not willing to sell the property for industrial development at that time. The tract was surveyed by TVA for cultural features and threatened and endangered species, and was found void of such resources. Its central location along the shoreline fronting a potential industrial/commercial land base adds strength to the concept of enhancing future economic development. Sensitive cultural resources have been found on TVA property both upstream and downstream of this tract which would make this tract more suitable for industrial access and terminal development. If the adjoining backlying land is sold for industrial use and it is necessary to provide an industrial corridor to the reservoir, this tract would minimize the visual and environmental impact along the shoreline and meet one of the plan's objectives.

Any industrial prospects requesting access across the tract should check with the state of Alabama Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for emission inventory information from existing industrial facilities and other special considerations.

This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private residential shoreline alterations will not be considered. Because of previous investments and to protect the enhanced value of timber and wildlife resources, TVA's Forestry and Wildlife will be allowed on an interim basis to manage these resources until the allocated land use is confirmed and implemented.

Tract No. 13 - (104.3 acres [42.2 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Pine Management
  Wildlife Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

Land in this tract is part of a larger segment of TVA shoreline located on the southern bank and downstream from Champion International Corporation (Champion). Several factors make this tract important from a forest and wildlife management standpoint. The large contiguous nature of this area is uncommon on TVA lands. Approximately 80 percent of the tract is a small sawtimber pine plantation that was established in the late 1930s. Today's net present value of the pine is over $1,200 per acre. The remaining 20 percent of hardwood timber approaches $1,000 per acre.

Significant forestry investment, good local markets for wood products, operational topography, and good road access are among the criteria which provide a *high suitability and land needs* rating for forest management. Because of the timber diversity and mature hardwoods (50 years+), this tract is well suited for upland wildlife management. It currently receives a moderate amount of big game hunting as well as a moderate-to-high amount of small game hunting, mostly raccoon and squirrel.

This tract, when combined with other adjoining tracts, can provide in excess of 390 acres (158 ha) of continuous wildlife habitat. Because of the tract's high visibility by lake users, visual management strategies should be considered in keeping with BMPs when managing wildlife or timber resources. Portions of the tract contain significant cultural features which would allow only limited multiple use of the tract. Any major alterations of the ground surface other than normal forestry or wildlife practices should be coordinated with TVA's Cultural Resources. TVA's Navigation Operations has identified the extreme eastern segment of shoreline fronting the main channel as a restricted area for navigational concerns. A portion of this tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private residential shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Both the Lawrence County Economic Development Authority and the North Central Alabama Regional COGS have for years considered the backlying private property suitable for industrial use. However, since the county has no zoning, it is difficult to pinpoint industrial locations. Currently, economic development occurs where land is available because of willing sellers of the backlying private property. Though requested for a barge terminal and industrial site, the tract was not allocated for such use because of sensitive cultural resources.

Tract No. 14 - (117.0 acres [47.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Industrial Access
  Barge Terminal Site
  Forest Pine Management

- Relevant Data:

This large tract is located adjacent to Champion, with approximately 90 percent of the tract covered in pine timber and the balance in upland hardwoods. The pine has a net present value of approximately $1,200 per acre. Prior forestry investment has been significant, and local markets are good for wood products. Capability of this site and the present forest situation represent a valuable forest resource, both now and in the future. This tract also has good capability and excellent suitability for a barge terminal. The tract has excellent highway access as well as deep water along the shoreline. The tract is adjacent to an area that has been identified for industrial development in the past and has been considered for purchase by industrial prospects. However, the owners of a portion of the backlying private property were not willing to sell the property for industrial development at that time. In addition to supporting a terminal or port, TVA also supports the local economic development community by providing industrial ingress and egress near existing industry, in order to facilitate future economic growth on private backlying property when conditions become favorable. Any industrial prospects requesting access across the tract should check with the state of Alabama DEM for emission inventory information from existing industrial facilities and other special considerations.

TVA's Wildlife seeks the opportunity, on an interim basis, to cooperate with forest management activities to enhance the habitat for upland wildlife on this tract. There are limited sites of cultural resources on this tract; however, recent testing found too few significant concentrations to warrant an allocation.

Because of existing barge traffic associated with the Champion terminal, TVA's Navigation Operations has identified the central segment of shoreline fronting the main channel as a restricted area for navigational concern. Any proposed commercial shoreline alterations would require coordination and review by TVA's Navigation Operations.

Tract No. 15 - (13.1 acres [5.3 ha])

- Planned Use: Informal Recreation

- Relevant Data:

Prior to impoundment, the road providing access to this tract (Lambs Ferry Road) was an early ferry crossing. The actual approach and crossing are now inundated and could be interpreted with a sign. However, the significance was not rated high enough to allocate the tract for cultural protection. The entire tract is covered by a loblolly pine plantation of pole and small sawtimber size.

Capability is ranked as good, and suitability is rated as medium, based on small tract size and previous forestry investment. To protect the resource from deterioration, TVA's Forestry will continue to provide interim forest management of the loblolly pine plantation. Because of the tract's visibility and easy access, it currently sustains high levels of informal recreational use, such as picnicking, bank fishing, camping, and swimming. The shoreline has a gentle slope to the water and is used by sport fishermen to launch small fishing boats. A preliminary survey of water depths at the end of the round found that the water depth was too shallow to improve lake access on this tract if the water depth can facilitate a paved boat ramp year-round. Other nearby sites are also being considered, such as Tract No. 17, if this tract cannot meet the necessary development criteria. Because of the shallow nature of the lake fronting this tract, submersed aquatic plant beds are present during some years. TVA has identified this segment of shoreline as a herbicide treatment area for the control of aquatic plants. Requests for such treatment have come from adjoining property owners who have had problems with aquatic plants interfering with private recreational shoreline improvements. Interim forestry prescriptions should be sensitive to the shoreline aesthetics and visual integrity of the site, recognizing heavy recreational use by the public and the tract's ability to visually break up private shoreline clearing and development along this segment of the reservoir.

Tract No. 16 - (9.0 acres [3.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Lake Access
  Agriculture
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

The soil interpretation has provided data which classify approximately 95 percent of the tract as prime farmland. At present most of the backlying private land is used for row crop farming. The tract is covered with a mixture of small nonmerchantable timber and scrub brush vegetation. Current access is provided by a dirt road located west of the TVA tract. TVA formerly purchased a legal right-of-way for ingress and egress to this tract. TVA has received a request from the adjacent landowner, offering to exchange the existing unimproved road right-of-way for one that would provide improved access. Both the current access and the proposed route are located on private land. The abandonment of the existing right-of-way in exchange for the new access would also solve a land use conflict for the private landowner. The tract was formerly used as a minor commercial landing but has not been in use for several years and was not requested for navigation or industrial use. The Wheeler planning team felt it would better serve the public as a formal lake access to accommodate the boating public.

If such lake access were to be developed, the planning team anticipated a decrease on current pressure placed on the small ramp area (Twin Rivers) at the confluence of the Elk and Tennessee Rivers. Should a portion of the tract be developed for lake access, some prime farmland would be affected by the access road and parking area. This tract would have greater capability for lake access than the alternate Lamb's Ferry tract located just downstream. The water depth fronting the tract is deeper and the embayment would offer adequate shelter from the wind. The size of the tract would also provide suitable space for parking. The visual integrity should be maintained as part of the development plan for lake access. As expressed by the public, high value is placed on maintaining a quality shoreline appearance, especially when viewed from the lake.

Tract No. 17 - (21.5 acres [8.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is composed of two island parcels, one large, approximately 21 acres (8.5 ha), and a smaller parcel approximately 0.3 acre in size. The islands were combined because of their proximity and land characteristics. To preserve the visual integrity of these islands, maximum protection was given through a visual protection allocation.

Soil interpretation of both islands revealed them to be 100 percent prime farmland. The larger island supports a small stand of pine timber; however, forest management was not appropriate because of the lack of access except by barge. Both islands offer excellent wildlife habitat for migratory birds as resting and feeding areas. Even though the islands

are relatively close to a developed residential shoreline, human contact with this habitat is infrequent. During some years, aquatic bed wetlands are also present along the western shoreline of the large island and along the eastern rim of the adjacent embayment near the small island parcel. TVA Fisheries has designated the embayment as a prime spawning habitat and as a fisheries nursery area for largemouth bass and sunfish.

Tract No. 18 - (4.1 acres [1.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Protection
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is composed of two island parcels, one large (approximately 4 acres [1.6 ha]) and one small (approximately 0.1 acre [.04 ha]). The islands were combined as one tract because of significant cultural resources and documented historical events which took place prior to impoundment of the reservoir. The Chickasaws established a major village at the mouth of the Elk River in the 18th century to establish an eastern boundary against Cherokee advances. The village remained until about 1817 when the Chickasaws lost this land through treaties which allowed white settlement. Both tracts will help provide visual buffers against approaching residential development. The larger island is densely covered with mixed pine and hardwood trees. During lower pool elevations the smaller parcel becomes a peninsula. Evidence of encroachment is visible along the shoreline from unauthorized cutting of small trees and natural vegetation on TVA public lands.

Both parcels are within the 100-year flood elevation, and both were formerly Reservoir Operations tracts under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. The islands also provide protection for wintering gulls, as well as a feeding and resting habitat for migratory diving ducks. Documented evidence reveals two threatened or endangered species of aquatic animals at the mouth of the Elk River and adjacent to the larger island (pink mucket pearly mussel and southern cave fish). Sport fishing for largemouth bass is also highlighted at this location.

Tract No. 19 - (0.4 acre [.16 ha])

- Planned Uses: Lake Access
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This small tract of TVA public land is located between two subdivisions at the confluence of the Elk and Tennessee Rivers. A developer of Twin Rivers Estates Subdivision was given permission to construct a concrete community boat ramp on TVA land, agreeing that it would be open for general public use. Even though parking space is limited, the access area receives moderate to heavy use. The ramp is sheltered from the wind, but over the years the adjoining bank has been undercut and eroded away. The Wheeler planning team recommends TVA work with local citizens or a lake user group to upgrade the parking area and riprap the shoreline on either side of the ramp. The ramp may need to be extended to provide year-round use.

Because of registered public complaints, the limited size of the access area, and the site's proximity to local neighborhoods, it is recommended that the access facility be used only by the recreation public and not for commercial or industrial purposes. It is further recommended that TVA place signs at the entrance of this lake access which reflect TVA's position for use of the tract. Because of significant historical events which took place at the mouth of the Elk River prior to 1817, it is important to maintain this tract for possible historical interpretation. Soils are potentially highly erodible, and the interpretation of soil types reveals it to be prime farmland. However, because of the tract's size and existing use, agriculture use was not considered significant.

The adjoining shoreline along the west bank of the Elk River is of navigational concern, and TVA's Navigation Operations should review any residential requests for approval of shoreline improvements or alterations.

Tract No. 20 - (103.1 acres [41.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Navigational Safety Harbor/Landing
  Informal Recreation
  Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This large tract is located along the east bank of the Elk River at the confluence of the Tennessee River. Hardwood dominates the tract. More than one-half of the hardwood is bottomland species averaging 50 years old. The upland component is large sawtimber, 85 years old, and has a net present value of $900 per acre. Several large sawtimber loblolly pine plantations (28 acres [11 ha]) on the tract have a net present value of $1,700 per acre. Although topography, limited access, and aesthetic concerns are negative suitability factors, the existing hardwood forest cover and favorable markets make this tract medium in land needs for multipurpose forest management.

Visual qualities are impressive looking northeast from the lake. The natural beauty of small rock bluff formations and the forest background provide added scenic value to the large open body of water made by the joining of the two rivers. The main access to the tract is from Snake Road (County 38). Even though access is limited, unimproved jeep trails provide access for informal recreational use throughout the tract. Evidence of hunting, bank fishing, and primitive camping can be seen throughout any given season. Upland small game is prevalent, with white-tailed deer the featured large game species on the tract. TVA's Wildlife will work closely with Forestry to enhance the habitat for forest-related wildlife. TVA will continue to allow the public to use the tract for informal recreation.

A portion along the bluff and near the point is allocated for a navigation safety landing. The shoreline along this segment is of navigational concern and requires TVA's Navigation Operations review requests for shoreline improvements or alterations. The shoreline upstream and beyond the end of the tract is covered with submersed aquatic plants during some years.

Tract No. 21 - (92.3 acres [37.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Commercial Recreation
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

Approximately one-half of this tract is made up of planted loblolly pine, with upland hardwood dominating the remainder. Both pine and hardwood have a net present value of $1,350 per acre. Soil interpretation indicates that the site has highly erodible soils and moderate ranking for soil-related forest productivity. The tract rates high in suitability because of previous forestry investment, good access, and available markets. The tract also has excellent capability and good suitability for commercial recreation. Its topography is suitable for development and offers a large land base on both sides of a wind-protected cove. Water depth is adequate for marina development. The area now receives moderate levels of informal recreational use, i.e., primitive camping, bank fishing, and some hunting. Removal of understory vegetation or tree canopy could have an impact on the erodible soils. Approved methods for checking soil erosion must be implemented if major development is considered on this tract. Because the site has potential value for commercial recreational development, forest and wildlife management will continue as an interim use, and prescriptions should carefully consider the impacts made on the visual qualities associated with standard management implementation procedures. Floating debris, carried by the Elk River, have been deposited at the back of the embayment. Because of the cover provided by sporadic colonization of submersed aquatic plants and debris, the cove offers good sport fishery habitat for crappie and largemouth bass.

Tract No. 22 - (40.1 acres [16.2 ha])

- Planned Uses: Industrial Access
  Barge Terminal Site
  Forest Pine Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

The entire tract is currently covered with loblolly pine. The plantation was established in the late 1930s and is approaching large sawtimber size. The net present value of the pine is $1,350 per acre. Access to the tract is available across private land. The industrial development board for the town of Rogersville has developed an industrial park on private land between the town and the river.

Rogersville has also submitted a request to TVA seeking to preserve water access for industrial development and attract economic prospects to this region. This concept follows one of TVA's reservoir objectives: "Encourage new industries to locate on adjacent private land and use designated corridors across TVA lands for access to the reservoir." By implementing such objectives, TVA can help to encourage economic growth but minimize the loss of adjacent public land. This concept helps to cluster industrial expansion in one area, limiting the alteration or loss of natural shoreline which has a public value. Any industrial prospects requesting access across the tract should check with the state of Alabama DEM for emission inventory information from existing industrial facilities and other special considerations. Because the site is near upstream residential development, it will be important for TVA to carefully review future plans for this tract to ensure that visual integrity be maintained. Until this tract is selected for development, TVA's Wildlife will continue to work, on an interim basis, with Forestry to consider management of upland wildlife game species. The shoreline and small cove near Barnett Road provide aquatic bed wetland habitat for a wood duck production, roosting, and staging area. The riparian zone also provides habitat for wetland furbearers.

Tract No. 23 - (4.6 acres [1.9 ha])

- Planned Uses: Lake Access
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located downstream from Elk River View Subdivision. Access is provided by Barnett Road. The tract is covered with loblolly pine but is too small to manage for forest production and would be in conflict with an existing boat launching facility. The concrete ramp was constructed by the Alabama Game and Fish under letter agreement with TVA. The facility receives moderate to heavy use, and the tract offers ample room for parking expansion should there be an increase in future demand. This tract is strategic because of its scenic value as a visual buffer if the downstream industrial corridor and terminal become reality.

Tract No. 24 - (102.8 acres [41.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Small Wild Area
  Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract incorporates the southern segment of a large, linear parcel of TVA land located along the east bank of the Elk River. It represents a little over one mile (1.61 km) of river shoreline (Elk River mile 2.0 to river mile 3.2L). Access is from the northeast on Long Oak Road and by an unimproved dirt road located upstream from the parcel. Much of the tract is bordered to the east by intensively managed agricultural land, predominantly row crops. Very few large, undisturbed, older hardwood forest tracts remain in public domain in this area of Wheeler Reservoir. The tract contains upland hardwoods exceeding 85 years old, with a net present value estimated at $1,885 per acre. The northern border of the tract joins a 20-acre (8-ha) loblolly pine plantation established in the late 1930s by CCC. It is anticipated that, until TVA can purchase a right-of-way across private land from the southeast, the tract will be reached by foot trail over TVA property through the pine plantation and beyond. Chestnut oak and shagbark hickory are found on the bluffs, with an understory of mountain laurel, buckeye, and dogwood. The bluffs and coves offer habitat for a wide variety of wildflowers. A large, broken chestnut oak may be the nesting site for a pair of vultures. The coves are composed of white oak, yellow-poplars, and beeches. A population of red baneberry (*Actea pachypoda*) is found on this tract near Elk River mile 3; the species is of special concern in Alabama. Only 15 populations are known to exist in northern Alabama.

This area is ideal for native plant group field trips, birding, and passive recreation, such as hiking. It provides beautiful views of the river from the top of the bluffs. For these reasons the tract was allocated for visual protection. The shoreline along a portion of the tract is of navigational concern because the sailing line is located near the shore, TVA will not consider construction of any water use facilities which could conflict with existing navigation operations on the river. Some cultural resources are present on the tract. Before initiating any surface disturbance, TVA should coordinate proposed plans with Cultural Resources staff.

Tract No. 25 - (165.0 acres [66.8 ha])

- Planned Uses: Public Recreation
  Forest Pine Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This linear tract has more than 1 1/2 miles (2.4 km) of shoreline fronting the Elk River. Its deep coves, forest cover, utility availability, water quality, and rolling topography provide good capability and suitability for future public recreational development. Access is provided from Long Oak Road. Almost the entire tract is composed of planted loblolly pine, although some shortleaf pine is present. The sawtimber-size pine was established in the late 1930s, planted by CCC. Soil productivity rates medium, while the net present value for the pine is an estimated $1,650 per acre. Because of the significant forestry investment from thinning, control burning, and other management efforts, this tract rates high in land needs for pine management. White-tailed deer is the featured upland species of game on the tract. The pine forest cover also provides diversity from adjacent private lands behind TVA which are currently in pasture and row crops.

Multiple embayments along the shoreline provide suitable habitat for wetland furbearers and wood duck staffing, roosting, and production areas. These same coves provide excellent sport fishery for largemouth bass. TVA owns approximately 5 miles (8 km) of protected shoreline along the east bank of the Elk River, and the agency wishes to maintain the visual integrity of its shoreline because of the possibility of continued residential expansion on the western shore of the Elk River. Any forest management activity will include consideration of the high aesthetic value placed on this reach of shoreline.

Tract No. 26 - (21.8 acres [8.8 ha])

- Planned Uses: Minor Commercial Landing
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the east bank of the Elk River mile 4.8, south of U.S. Highway 72. The shoreline topography fronting the tract is acute. Access is available from Lee Highway or Long Oak Road. Most of this tract is covered with light tree cover and scrub shrub vegetation. Because of deep water adjacent to the shoreline and available road access, the tract was earlier used as a minor commercial landing, but presently there is no commercial activity on the tract. The entire shoreline fronting this tract is of navigation concern. All requests to use this site as a commercial landing should be reviewed by TVA's Navigation Operations prior to activity. When considering any commercial use of this tract, the proposal should include an agreement that no damage will be done to the natural tree and vegetation cover. The existing vegetation provides aesthetic protection adjacent to the existing bridge

abutment controlling shoreline erosion. The tract also offers a scenic buffer as protection from potential visual encroachments. The tract was surveyed (1989-90) by TVA for sensitive cultural resources but no significant sites were located. However, an early nineteenth-century plantation house has been reconstructed on private land abutting TVA's backlying property line.

Tract No. 27 - (0.8 acre [.32 ha])

- Planned Use: Barge Terminal Site
- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the east bank of the Elk River (river mile 5.4) and is north of Joe Wheeler State Park (formerly Elk River Lodge). The adjacent parcel located upstream was sold by TVA and has been used as a commercial barge terminal by the Wheeler Grain Company. The grain company bought a permanent easement from TVA in January 1984 for the right to load and off-load commodities associated with the agriculture industry. In 1989 an explosion destroyed a significant portion of the grain elevator operation located behind TVA property. Since the accident, no commercial navigation activity has taken place at the existing terminal. The Wheeler planning team recommends this tract, owned by TVA, be allocated as a barge terminal site to facilitate future expansion of the existing terminal facility if the need arises. Road access would need to be arranged with private landowners or with Wheeler Grain Company. This remaining parcel was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system and the shoreline is of navigational concern. Industrial prospects requesting access across the tract should check with the state of Alabama DEM for emission inventory information from existing industrial facilities and other special considerations.

Tract No. 28 - (13.9 acres [5.6 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This long and narrow tract is located along the east bank of the Elk River (river mile 5.5 to river mile 6.3). Approximately 600 feet (182.9 m.) of shoreline located at the southern end of the tract is restricted by TVA's Navigation Operations against shoreline development. The navigation sailing line approaches the eastern shoreline at this point and could conflict with private water use facilities. No private water use facilities will be considered within this zone of navigational concern. TVA's property abuts Hampton Campsites Subdivision and runs along a 4,000-foot (1,219.2 m.) straight line boundary. The depth of the tract varies with the meandering of the shore from as little as 50 feet (15.2 m.) up to 150 feet (45.8 m.) at the northern end. The tract is important because of the scenic qualities provided by natural vegetation and its ability to hold moisture and to slow surface runoff into the lake.

Soil interpretation reveals 100 percent of the tract is highly erodible with a slope in excess of 60 percent. The tract is covered with second growth upland hardwoods. However, the size of the tract, acute topography, and proximity to private residential development result in poor capability and low suitability for forest management opportunities. Private property owners have built their homes or cottages within a few feet of the TVA property line, and one house has been built on TVA property. This encroachment will need to be resolved. Another new housing start is questionable and could become a possible encroachment. The tract is not suitable for recreational development because of the steep topography. However, prior to this reservoir plan and under the TVA forecast system of land management, TVA approved 12 permits at no charge for private shoreline improvements. More than 30 lots adjoin TVA property along this bluff line overlooking the Elk River. Trees and other vegetation would have to be removed to provide for private steps, landings, decks, walkways, docks, etc. The sheer number of possible requests for construction could have a cumulative impact on the scenic and natural resources located on the tract. Visual management and visual protection are important land use classifications and highlighted by the general public as the most important public value for Wheeler Reservoir. Three requests were pending with TVA, and other property owners wanted to seek permits after clarification and understanding could be reached.

On February 3, 1994, at Joe Wheeler State Park, the planning team and property owners jointly identified a list of issues, concerns, and objectives that were significant to both TVA and the property owners. Discussion followed, and several alternative solutions emerged. After two hours, consensus was reached. The following statement reflects the conditions agreed to by those present at the meeting.

TVA will retain the property in its ownership and allow the adjoining property owners to apply for a permit for access from their property to the shoreline, with the following conditions:

1. Access to the lake across TVA property will be by footpath and/or steps only.

2. No decks, shelters, or other structures will be constructed on TVA property except as provided herein.

3. New or replacement piers or boathouses will require a floating type rather than fixed construction.

4. Private water use facilities built on TVA property will be constructed in accordance to plans or designs drawn by a registered engineer and approved in writing by TVA. Such facilities will not be nailed or fixed to trees or other vegetation.

5. Waterfront cleanliness will be maintained, e.g., no temporary or permanent storage of any materials or recreation paraphernalia owned by private land owners will be located on TVA property.

6. Individuals who desire to paint their private water use facilities must use "earth-tone" or other nobtrusive colors, i.e., browns, grays, beige, dark greens, etc.)

7. All styrofoam used for floatation will not be exposed but encased in metal or equivalent material.

8. Each property owner who is granted a permit for access across TVA property shall agree to have the permit recorded in the office of the judge of probate for Limestone County. If the property owner does not agree to do this, TVA will have the option to deny the request.

Existing and new permits will be transferable to future buyers if the adjoining private property is sold. All existing private water use facilities that have been permitted by TVA will be allowed to remain. However, existing facilities or improvements not currently permitted will be viewed as encroachments and will be subject to removal.

Participants also requested the planning team incorporate as part of the land management plan their suggestion that permanent deeded rights for access to the shoreline be considered as part of the "Valleywide shoreline policy initiative." The team explained to those attending that, as part of the new shoreline management policy, TVA could possibly be initiating a fee schedule for water use facility permits. In addition, TVA may also require citizens at Hampton Campsites and Holland Lakeview Subdivisions to purchase the necessary landrights for ingress and egress. This purchase may be necessary to bring them into compliance with other landowners who have already paid for such rights on this reservoir and others.

Tract No. 29 - (0.3 acre [.12 ha])

- Planned Use: Wildlife Management
- Relevant Data:

This small island tract is located on the Elk River (river mile 5.6R) at the mouth of Anderson Creek. The tract has been classified as a forested wetland. Its soil interpretation is 100 percent prime farmland. Water access and the size of the tract preclude its use for agricultural purposes. The low profile of the island places it within the 100-year flood elevation. It was visually evaluated as not significant. The tract does provide wetland habitat for both waterfowl and wetland furbearers. This tract is used largely for small game hunting. The Girl Scouts of America have developed "Camp Anderel" on private land west of the island tract. In the past, this activity has had little impact on the wildlife using the island as a feeding and resting area.

Tract No. 30 - (23.9 acres [9.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Forest Pine Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the right bank of Anderson Creek embayment about 1 1/2 miles (2.4 km) from its confluence with Elk River near river mile 5. County Route 70 divides the tract east to west and provides access to the property. The tract is covered by timber, including hardwoods and a stand of sawtimber-size pine. The stand was improved in 1988 by a thinning of undesirable growth, and the tract supports a fair amount of upland wildlife normally associated with forest management. Soils in this area are classified as moderately productive for forestry applications but are also highly erodible. Roughly 10 percent of the tract is subject to frequent flooding. Land uses adjacent to the tract include agriculture, woodland, and residential. This wooded tract provides a visual buffer, screening the county road and shoreline from residential development on either side. The tract has therefore been allocated for visual management, as well as for forestry.

Tract No. 31 - (0.2 acre [.08 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a small island located in the upper embayment of Anderson Creek, lying entirely below the 560-foot (170.7-m) contour elevation and vegetated with scrub shrub and forested wetlands. During periods of high water caused by flooding, the island is likely to be submerged, and this limits most uses. Limited hunting takes place here. The island provides cover and habitat for waterfowl and wetland wildlife species; however, vegetation offers some visual screening for the shoreline.

Tract No. 32 - (3.0 acres [1.2 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is narrow and steep and is located on the right bank near Elk River mile 6.5. The tract fronts a sold tract, No. XWR-202 (Holland Lakeview Subdivision), which has been developed for private residential use. The tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. The soils are classed as highly erodible and medium for forest productivity. An endangered plant species, the Alabama snow wreath (*Neviusia alabamensis*), is located on the adjoining upstream tract. Except for those areas disturbed by private development, the tract's vegetation is primarily upland hardwoods with a dense understory of woody stem plants. The shoreline here is classified as being of navigational concern, and any proposed alterations require TVA's Navigation Operations review prior to approval. This tract, along with adjacent upstream tracts, creates a scenic vegetative screen for the

shoreline of Elk River. Protection of shoreline aesthetics was recorded by the general public to be ***the most important public value*** for Wheeler Reservoir.

Almost half of the tract is not suitable for recreational development because of its steep topography. Currently there are seven private lots which abut TVA along a clearly marked (800 foot [243.8 m]) straight line boundary. Five of seven lot owners have been given authorization by TVA to construct private water use facilities. These requests were granted (1965-1990) prior to completion of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. Over the years, trees and other vegetation have been removed to provide for steps, landings, decks, docks, and boat houses. In 1991, there was an unauthorized tree cutting case at the northeast end of this tract. Some large trees were cut on TVA public land to provide a view to the lake from a private residence. The abutting property owner was contacted by TVA and was asked to cease cutting the trees and vegetation. Aside from the timber trespass, TVA staff sought to protect this riparian habitat located next to the Alabama snow wreath.

On February 3, 1994, at Joe Wheeler State Park, the planning team and property owners from Holland Lakeview and Hampton Campsite Subdivisions jointly identified a list of issues, concerns, and objectives that were significant to both TVA and the property owners. Discussion followed, and several alternative solutions emerged. After two hours, consensus was reached. The following statement reflects the conditions agreed to by those present at the meeting.

TVA will retain the property in its ownership and allow the adjoining property owners to apply for a permit for access from their property to the shoreline, with the following conditions:

1. Access to the lake across TVA property will be by footpath and/or steps only.

2. No decks, shelters, or other structures will be constructed on TVA property except as provided herein.

3. New or replacement piers or boathouses will require a floating type rather than fixed construction.

4. Private water use facilities built on TVA property will be constructed in accordance to plans or designs drawn by a registered engineer and approved in writing by TVA. Such facilities will not be nailed or fixed to trees or other vegetation.

5. Waterfront cleanliness will be maintained, e.g., no temporary or permanent storage of any materials or recreation paraphernalia owned by private land owners will be located on TVA property.

6. Individuals who desire to paint their private water use facilities must use "earth-tone" or other unobtrusive colors, i.e., browns, grays, beige, dark greens, etc.)

7. All styrofoam used for floatation will not be exposed but encased in metal or equivalent material.

8. Each property owner who is granted a permit for access across TVA property shall agree to have the permit recorded in the offfice of the judge of probate for Limestone County. If the property owner does not agree to do this, TVA will have the option to deny the request.

Tract No. 32 (continued)

Existing and new permits will be transferable to future buyers if the adjoining private property is sold. All existing private water use facilities that have been permitted by TVA will be allowed to remain. However, existing facilities or improvements not currently permitted will be viewed as encroachments and will be subject to removal.

Because of the consensus reached, the planning team recommended the land use allocation be changed from Visual Protection to Visual Management. This would allow minor alteration or modification to the vegetation to accommodate some development of private water use facilities at the shoreline.

Participants also requested the planning team incorporate as part of the land management plan their suggestion that permanent deeded rights for access to the shoreline be considered as part of the "Valleywide shoreline policy initiative." The team explained to those attending that, as part of the new shoreline management policy, TVA could possibly be initiating a fee schedule for water use facility permits.

In addition, TVA may also require citizens at Hampton Campsites and Holland Lakeview Subdivisions to purchase the necessary landrights for ingress and egress. This purchase may be necessary to bring them into compliance with other landowners who have already paid for such rights on this reservoir and others.

Tract No. 33 - (7.1 acres [2.9 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Protection
  Habitat Protection Area

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a narrow strip approximately 1/2-mile long (.80 km) located on the right bank of Elk River near river mile 7 downstream from Buzzard Roost Bluff. The parcel consists totally of bluff or semibluff terrain with little or no timber. The soils are highly erodible. Alabama snow wreath (*Neviusia alabamensis*), a plant which has been identified on the site, is listed as endangered in Alabama and is being considered for federal listing. The Elk River navigation channel is immediately adjacent to the shoreline along this section of the river. Navigation restrictions are in effect on this tract, and any changes here will have to be coordinated with TVA's Navigation Operations before approval. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 34 - (21.7 acres [8.8 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a narrow, approximately 1 1/2-mile strip (2.4-km) on the right bank of Elk River near river mile 8 known as Buzzard Roost Bluff. The parcel is primarily bluff with steep hollows. Hardwood timber exists where the terrain will allow, and the potential for soil erosion is high across the entire tract. Land uses on adjacent parcels include industry, agriculture, and residential. This strip is quite scenic because of the high bluffs that rise immediately from Elk River. The navigation channel is immediately adjacent to the shoreline along this section of the river, and navigation restrictions are in effect on the parcel. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 35 - (2.7 acres [1.1 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is made up of four small islands located at Elk River mile 8, near the left bank and fronting Elk River View Subdivision. The islands lie below the 560-foot (170.7-m) contour elevation and are vegetated with scrub shrub and forested wetlands. The islands provide cover and habitat for waterfowl, shore birds, and wetland species. These islands would likely be submerged during a flood.

Tract No. 36 - (11.6 acres [4.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Lake Access
  Informal Recreation
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a long, narrow strip lying between Maple Swamp and Dry Branch embayment and Shoemaker Road. Several unimproved boat access sites located on the tract receive moderate recreational use. Vegetation consists of upland hardwood and small woody growth along the road right-of-way, and some emergent wetlands are present offshore. The terrain gently slopes from the road to the water, making the tract convenient for boat launching. The average grade is approximately 10 to 15 percent. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 37 - (5.8 acres [2.3 ha])

- Planned Use: Lake Access

- Relevant Data:

This small, rectangular tract on the left bank of Elk River near river mile 9 lies between Elk River View and Stewart Ferry Subdivisions. The parcel is oriented northeast/southwest at a right angle to the shoreline and encompasses most of a deep hollow filled with large hardwoods. A gravel road running north from Lee Highway (U.S. Route 72) provides public access and was used in the past to launch small boats at the mouth of the hollow. Recently, however, floods have deposited logs and other debris on the old launch site, and access is now difficult. The shoreline here is under navigation restriction, and any alteration will require TVA's Navigation Operations review prior to approval.

Tract No. 38 - (13.1 acres [5.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Informal Recreation
  Forest Pine Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a narrow parcel on the right bank of Elk River directly downstream of Elk River Mills Bridge. A pine plantation covering the majority of this tract contains a small amount of quality pine timber. The area not in plantation pine is mainly upland hardwoods and is used for informal recreation, including camping and river access. The area is subject to flooding, and the soils are classed as highly erodible. The portion of Elk River fronting this tract has been identified as having a threatened and endangered mussel species. The location of this tract, adjacent to a well-traveled roadway and bridge, makes it important from a visual management standpoint.

Tract No. 39 - (94.6 acres [38.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Informal Recreation
  Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This is a fairly large tract lying south of Big Creek embayment between Baker Hill Road on the east and Elk River to the west. The tract has a diverse mixture of vegetation, including pine plantation, mixed hardwoods with scattered natural growth pine, and forested wetlands. The topography is also quite diverse, ranging from steep, hilly terrain to low wetlands. Soils over most of the area are classified as highly erodible, but there are a few pockets of prime farmland in the parcel. Some informal recreation is already taking place here. The northwest quarter of the tract facing the main river channel is under navigation restriction.

Tract No. 40 - (24.2 acres [9.8 ha])

- Planned Uses: Small Wild Area
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located on the north side of Big Creek embayment of Elk River. Elk River Mills Road delineates the southern border of the property and provides access. The terrain is steep, and the soils are classed as highly erodible. An abandoned limestone quarry located here has been closed for years. The vegetation is a mixture of pine, mixed hardwoods, and scrub shrub. An access road leading into the tract from Elk River Mills Road has recently been blocked to discourage littering on the site.

Tract No. 41 - (7.8 acres [3.2 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This is a very narrow tract lying between Elk River Mills Road on the north and Big Creek embayment of Elk River to the south. Almost all of the tract is located within the county road right-of-way. Vegetation consists of scrub shrub and wetland species, providing some value as a visual screen for the road and shoreline.

Tract No. 42 - (28.7 acres [11.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is comprised of a series of small and moderate-sized islands located between Elk River miles I5 and I6. All of the islands are located within the floodplain, and most have top elevations below the 560-foot (170.7-m) contour. Vegetation consists of scrub shrub and forested wetlands. These islands provide excellent cover and habitat for waterfowl and wetland species.

Tract No. 43 - (11.7 acres [4.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is comprised of a series of small islands located in the Sugar Creek embayment of Elk River. All of the islands are located within the floodplain with top elevations of 560-foot (170.7 m) contour or less. Vegetation consists of forested wetlands, shrub wetlands, and scrub shrub. These islands provide excellent habitat for waterfowl and wetland species. Two species of threatened and endangered mussel are found in the waters nearby.

Tract No. 44 - (121.3 acres [49.1 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This fairly large tract is located at the upper end of Sugar Creek embayment above the 556-foot (169.5-m) and below 560-foot (170.7-m) elevation. The entire tract lies within the 100-year flood elevation; however, for the most part, the soils are not particularly erodible, and the area is rated high for soil forest productivity. An agricultural license existed on the tract until the mid-l980s. Since that time, the open areas have begun to revert to bottomland hardwood similar in species composition to the adjacent woodland—sweetgum, sycamore, and boxelder. Other vegetation consists of pine, forested wetland, and scrub shrub. Because of the high productivity of this site, forest management capability is excellent; however, suitability is low due to the present forest cover, lack of access, and wet site conditions. The tract provides beneficial habitat for upland game, as well as wetland species. A high amount of big and small game hunting occurs here. Part of this parcel was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 45 - (7.0 acres [2.8 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

Two small parcels make up this tract located at the uppermost portion of Sugar Creek embayment. These parcels lie on either side of Sugar Creek and west of Cotton Belt Road, which provides public access. This low, flat tract is classed as 100 percent prime farmland and has previously been licensed for agriculture. Vegetation consists of forested wetlands and related wetland varieties. A minor amount of hunting takes place here. All of the tract is located within the floodplain and is inundated during major flood events.

Tract No. 46 - (2.6 acres [1.1 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

The tract is made up of two small islands on either side of Elk River at river mile 17. These islands are entirely below the 560-foot (170.7 m) contour elevation and are usually inundated during flooding. Both islands are classed as prime farmland but are too small and wet to farm effectively. Vegetation consists of wetland species, scrub shrub, and forested wetlands. These islands provide excellent cover and habitat for waterfowl and wetland species and some visual screening for the shoreline.

Tract No. 47 - (5.8 acres [2.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Lake Access
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small parcel, known as Grigsby Ferry, is located at the end of Grigsby Ferry Road on the left bank of Elk River at river mile 17. An unimproved launching ramp and a small parking area located here receive considerable use during months when the lake is full. Vegetation consists of upland hardwoods, scattered pine, and scrub shrub with no significant or valuable timber. Adjacent land uses include forests and agriculture. Upland game, including deer and turkey, are found on this tract, but the parcel is not big enough to include in a TVA game management program. About one-half the tract falls within the 100-year flood elevation, and the soils are highly erodible. Since this is a part of the shoreline of Elk Creek, a visual management allocation is appropriate. Limestone County occasionally maintains the road and parking area for lake access.

Tract No. 48 - (312.0 acres [126.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This large tract, situated on the left bank of Elk River between river miles 18 and 19, and approximately one mile (1.61 km) downstream of Highway 99 Buck Island bridge, was licensed for agricultural purposes until 1990.

Since that time, it has been managed for wildlife habitat. A cooperative farming agreement was initiated on this tract in 1993, as well as on Tract Nos. 53, 55, and 59. One-half of each field will be row cropped each year. The remaining fallow half will be farmed in alternative years in a rotational scheme. Most of the area falls within the 100-year flood elevation, but the soils are not particularly erodible and are rated as either medium or high for forest productivity. Over roughly one-half of the tract, the vegetation is in early succession following row cropping, and TVA's Forestry proposes to plant trees in these open areas before they are taken over by less desirable species. Vegetation on the remainder of the tract is quite diverse, ranging from emergent and forested wetlands to upland hardwoods and mixed pine. The tract presently provides excellent habitat for most wildlife native to this area, including waterfowl and wetland species. A high amount of hunting occurs on this tract, as well as Tract Nos. 53, 55, and 59. Any alterations or activities proposed for this tract must be coordinated with TVA's Cultural Resources.

Tract No. 49 - (3.0 acres [1.2 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of two small islands located near Elk River mile 19 approximately 1 1/2 miles (2.4 km) below Highway 99 bridge. The islands are below the 560-foot (170.7-m) contour elevation and would be totally submerged during flooding periods. Vegetation consists of wetlands, forested wetlands, and scrub shrub. These islands offer excellent cover and habitat for waterfowl and wetland species and provide visual screening for the shoreline.

Tract No. 50 - (95.7 acres [38.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This fairly large tract is located on the right bank of Elk River at river mile 19, approximately 1 1/2 miles (2.4 km) downstream of State Route 99 (Buck Island Road) bridge. Buck Island Road continues westward from the bridge to define the northern boundary of the tract. Several small streams, including Baptizing Branch, create sizable embayments off the main river on the southern boundary of the parcel. The entire tract is within the 100-year flood elevation, but the soils are not highly erodible. Most of this tract is open land, some of which is currently under agricultural license. The remainder of the parcel, which includes more open land as well as wetlands, forested wetlands, and scrub shrub, is presently being managed as wildlife habitat. Upon reversion of the agriculture license, TVA's Forestry proposes to plant the open areas before they are taken over by less desirable species. A plant currently considered of special concern by the state of Alabama has been identified nearby and could occur on this tract. A historical structure is also visible from the tract, and proposed program activities on the site should be coordinated with TVA's Cultural Resources. As wildlife habitat, this tract offers excellent potential for the management of upland, as well as wetland species. A high amount of hunting occurs on this tract, as well as Tract Nos. 53, 55, and 59.

Tract No. 51 - (28.1 acres [11.4 ha])

- Planned Use: Forest Multiple-Use Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the north side of State Route 99 (Buck Island Road) west of Elk River bridge. Vegetation on the western half of the tract consists of a fairly good timber stand of mixed hardwood and pine with some wetland and forested wetlands. The eastern half is essentially open. Almost all the tract is located within the 100-year flood elevation, but the soils are not classed as highly erodible. A portion of the tract is now licensed for agricultural purposes. A historic structure is located on adjacent private land. This tract offers good upland game habitat, but its value is limited because of the nearby highway. Capability and suitability for forest management (planting) both rated excellent because of the high soil productivity, good access, level topography, and favorable timber markets for future products.

Tract No. 52 - (16.1 acres [6.5 ha])

- Planned Uses: Agriculture
  Forest Pine Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This is a small tract lying south of State Route 99 (Buck Island Road) and north at Elk River mile 19.5. It is on the right bank about 1 mile (1.61 km) west of where Highway 99 crosses Elk River. The majority of the tract is currently in agricultural production. Over one-half the tract lies below the 560-foot (170.7-m) contour, making it highly susceptible to flooding. However, the soils are not highly erodible, and 85 percent is classed as prime farmland. Existing vegetation consists of scrub shrub and hardwood borders. Soil forest productivity is rated as medium, and the tract could be valuable for forestry management as a pine plantation. The tract offers excellent habitat for upland and wetland games species.

Tract No. 53 - (88.6 acres [36 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This fairly large tract is located on the right bank of Elk River between river miles 19 and 20, about 1/2 mile (.80 km) downstream of the State Route 99 (Buck Island Road) bridge. The entire tract is within the 100-year flood elevation, but the soils are not classed as highly erodible. Forest soil productivity is rated as high. The tract has been in agricultural production but at present is being managed for wildlife habitat. Vegetation consists of idle fields, mixed hardwoods, and wetlands, and the tract offers excellent upland and wetland species habitat.

Tract No. 54 - (3.6 acres [1.5 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located on the left side of Elk River near river mile 20. A secondary road follows the shoreline on the northern boundary of the tract and provides public access. The area is not subject to frequent flooding, but the soils are classed as highly susceptible to erosion. Existing vegetation is primarily scrub shrub and scattered hardwoods. The terrain is fairly sloping and is not conducive to agricultural activities. The tract offers good cover for upland and nongame species, and the vegetative screen has some value in protecting the visual integrity of the shoreline.

Tract No. 55 - (61.7 acres [25 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This fairly large tract is located on the left bank of Elk River immediately downstream of Highway 99 bridge. The entire tract is within the 100-year flood elevation. The soils are not highly erodible and are classed as medium or high in potential forest productivity. Existing vegetation consists of wetlands, mixed hardwoods, scrub shrub, and idle fields. A portion of the tract has been in agricultural production, but it is now being managed for wildlife habitat. TVA's Forestry has proposed to plant the fallow fields in trees and manage the area for forestry. This tract offers excellent habitat for wetland, upland, and nongame species. The proximity of the nearby road and bridge also makes it valuable for visual management.

Tract No. 56 - (2.8 acres [1.1 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located on the right bank of the Elk River downstream and adjacent to Highway 99 bridge. Vegetation consists of mixed hardwoods, scrub shrub, and wetlands. Soils here are classed as potentially, highly erodible. Forest soil productivity is rated high, but the small size of the plot makes it unsuitable for forest management. The tract is being used periodically for informal recreational activities, such as bank fishing. Because of its close proximity to Highway 99 Buck Island, this tract has little or no use for wildlife habitat or production, but it does provide a visual buffer along the shoreline and highway.

Tract No. 57 - (6.8 acres [2.8 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This is a small tract located on the right bank of Elk River immediately upstream of Highway 99 bridge. A state public access area with a launching ramp and a parking area is on the tract. Vegetation consists of wetlands, mixed hardwoods, and scrub shrub. A historic structure is located on the adjacent private land. The parcel is long and narrow and too small for most program activities, but it provides some visual screening for the shoreline and some visual protection for the historical structure.

Tract No. 58 - (5.7 acres [2.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is made up of three small islands located near Elk River mile 21. The vegetation consists of forested wetlands, scrub shrub, and wetlands. These islands are located totally below the 560-foot (170.7 m) contour and are flooded during high-water flows. These islands offer excellent habitat for waterfowl and wetland species and some visual protection for the river shoreline.

Tract No 59 - (55.6 acres [22.5 ha])

- Planned Uses: Agriculture
  Forests Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is made up of two sizable parcels of open row crop and pastureland on the left bank of the Elk River between river miles 20 and 21. Buck Island Road (State Route 99) bisects the tract north to south, carrying with it rights-of-way for the road and a pipeline. Approximately 80 percent of the acreage is rated as prime farmland, and it is presently under agricultural license. Adjacent lands are also being used primarily for agriculture. The area is subject to flooding, and there are a few small pockets of forested wetland and associated riparian vegetation. Duck River Bladderpod (*Lesquerella densipila*), a plant listed by the state of Alabama as endangered, is found on a site near this tract. This tract has been identified as excellent for both multiple-use and pine plantation forestry. If present agricultural licenses are not renewed, TVA will plant pine or hardwoods. The tract has also been rated as excellent for wildlife management for waterfowl, small game, and white-tailed deer. The 165 acres (67 ha) west of Buck Island Road will be used for a demonstration of various wildlife habitat enhancement techniques. All activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 60 - (82.6 acres [33.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Agriculture
  Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the right (north) bank of the Elk River near river mile 21. It is divided into three segments by Buck Island Road (State Route 99) with an accompanying pipeline

right-of-way and a shallow slough extending northwesterly from the Elk River channel. Part of the tract is accessible from a secondary road extending from Buck Island Road eastward to the old fish hatchery, and it may also be reached by water from a state access ramp on the west (downstream) side of the slough. The shoreline around the access receives a good bit of informal recreational use from bank fishermen. The character of this tract is generally open, with small areas of shrub and brushy lowland, abandoned fields reverting to woodland, and forested wetland. The entire tract is subject to occasional flooding, and roughly 25 percent of the soil area is classed as potentially highly erodible. Approximately 75 percent of the acreage is prime farmland, however, and the tract is under agricultural license for row crops and hay with a special provision for wildlife habitat protection and enhancement. The surrounding lands are also primarily under agriculture.

The tract has been rated as excellent for both pine and multiple-use forestry management, and the diversity of habitats also makes it suitable for managing a variety of game and nongame animal species.

Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*), a plant listed as a species of special concern in Alabama, has been identified on a nearby site. Upon reversion of the existing agricultural license(s), the tract will be used for multiple-use forestry management. All activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 61 - (53.8 acres [21.8 ha])

- Planned Uses: Agriculture
  Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This is a combined tract of land lying along the left (south) bank of the Elk River near river mile 22 at the mouth of several small branches entering the Elk River from the south. The eastern portion of the tract overlooks the old fish hatchery area across the river to the north. The tract is mostly open pastureland with occasional patches of forested wetland and some riparian vegetation. Most of the area is subject to periodic flooding. However, 90 percent of the acreage is rated as prime farmland, and the soils are not highly erodible. The tract is now under agricultural license, and most of the surrounding land use is also agricultural. The habitat diversity of the area makes it suitable for wildlife management for both aquatic and upland species. If the agricultural license(s) are not renewed, areas with high soil fertility will be used for multiple-use forestry management. All activities taking place on this tract must comply with cultural resource protection and visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 62 - (201.3 acres [81.5 ha])

- Planned Uses: Public Recreation
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This is the location of the old Elk River Fish Hatchery. The tract is located on the right (north) bank of the Elk River, between river miles 22 and 24.5, and is accessible by water and a secondary road from Buck Island Road (State Route 99) some 1 1/2 miles (2.4 km) to the west. The municipal water intake for the city of Athens is on the left bank of the Elk River directly across the river from this tract. At present the land is fairly open, with marginal pastureland and disturbed areas reverting to shrub and brush. Signs of frequent flooding are evident. When Wheeler Dam was nearing completion, there was some concern among fisheries biologists that large reservoirs in the South would, in a period of a few years, become "biological deserts" requiring constant restocking of several fish species to maintain biological diversity and provide a sport fishery. With the cooperation of the United States Bureau of Fisheries, TVA developed the Elk River hatchery to meet this anticipated need. On approximately 150 acres (61 ha) within a wide bend of the river, earthen dikes were constructed dividing the flat lowland into a grid of 77 rectangular containment basins, each with its own water control valve. A central mechanism regulated the inflow of water from the Elk River. Within a year of completion of the project, however, it was closed. The underlying strata and soil type of the location made the enclosures leaky and hard to maintain, and the river overflowed regularly, inundating the rearing ponds. It soon became apparent, moreover, that aquatic life in the reservoir, including fish species, could maintain itself very well without constant stocking, and the project was abandoned.

Since the hatchery closed, the land has been subject to a number of uses, not all of them beneficial. The tract was under agricultural license for a number of years, but the license was abandoned approximately six years ago because of vandalism and unauthorized recreational activities, including heavy use by off-road recreational vehicles. The tract is also subject to grazing by cattle entering from surrounding farmlands. Attempts by adjacent landowners to fence the property lines have been frustrated by periodic flooding, a problem which also limits several other uses for the land. The tract has some value for forest and wildlife management. In 1992 TVA initiated active wildlife habitat management, consisting of bulldozing brush, establishing a rotation of native and domestic vegetation on one-half of the 22 upper most ponds. Vehicular access has been prohibited. A forest management allocation was dropped from consideration, however, because soil compaction and other substrate damage by previous uses made the area less suitable for planting trees and to avoid additional damage to holding tank structures, which have some historical significance. False foxglove (*Aureolaria patula*), a plant listed as endangered by the state of Alabama, has been identified on a site nearby and may exist on this tract also.

Several uses for this tract, such as an ATV recreational area, as well as Veterans Memorial Park proposal, have been proposed by private interest groups. These proposals should be considered on their merits. All activities taking place on this tract must comply with cultural resource protection and visual management guidelines. Other proposed uses are addressed *within the Goals and Objectives section, see planning team* discussion, objective no. 13, page 114.

Tract No. 63 - (71.6 acres [29 ha])

- Planned Uses: Agriculture
  Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the left bank of the Elk River at river mile 24 around the lower reaches of Sulphur Creek and directly across the Elk River from the old fish hatchery area. The western half of the tract is pastureland and upland hardwood stands. The eastern half, along the bottomlands of Sulphur Creek, is primarily forested wetland with such species as sycamore, sweetgum, and boxelder. Both upland and bottomland forest types are approximately 50 years old. Approximately 90 percent of the acreage is classed as prime farmland; approximately 10 percent is also judged to have high soil erosion potential. About 80 percent of the tract falls within the zone of occasional flooding. The entire tract is presently under agricultural license(s), and most of the surrounding land is also under agriculture. All activities taking place on this tract must comply with cultural resource protection and visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 64 - (87.7 acres [35.5 ha])

- Planned Uses: Industrial Site
  Industrial Access
  Barge Terminal Site

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the left (west) bank of Spring Creek at its confluence with Wheeler Reservoir near Tennessee River mile 283. Spring Creek Road, running east and west, defines the southern boundary. Most of this relatively flat tract is covered in loblolly pine plantations of two age groups, 27 and 50 years old, with small pockets of open land or shrub and brush. The northern point of the tract contains mixed woodland, with pines in the 50-year class predominating. This area is not subject to frequent flooding, but the potential for soil erosion is rated as high on 90 percent of the tract. Some informal recreation, mostly in the form of bank fishing, takes place on the site, but it is not particularly suited for a park or campground because of the heavy industry located nearby. A state boat ramp is located off Spring Creek Road on the southeast corner of the tract. An industrial water intake is located west (downstream) from the tract in the mouth of the embayment.

The pine stands on this site have been subject to forest management practices, such as thinning and controlled burning, since the first trees were planted here by CCC in the late 1930s. This represents a considerable forestry investment, and a forest management allocation for the tract was considered. However, the location of the site (adjacent to the Champion site and near other areas proposed for industrial development), as well as its good access to rail lines and U.S. Highway Alternate 72, offers excellent capability and high land need for an industrial site or a barge terminal. From an air quality perspective, the feasibility of locating an industrial facility on this tract will depend on the magnitude of air emissions from the proposed source and from existing nearby sources. Meteorological factors that affect dispersion of the pollutants, and proximity to areas with special air quality requirements, such as the Sipsey River Wilderness PSD Class I area, are also factors that must be considered. These factors must be evaluated in the process of applying for an air quality permit. Additionally, industrial prospects requesting access across the tract should check with the state of Alabama DEM for emission inventory information from existing industrial facilities and other special considerations.

As a compromise between two reasonable and conflicting land uses, the Wheeler planning team recommends that TVA forest and wildlife management practices continue on an interim basis until the tract is developed for industry. A domestic water intake is located in the mouth of the embayment, off shore to the northeast of this tract.

Two rare mussel species, *Toxolasma lividus lividus* and *Lampsilis orbiculata*, have been identified in the waters adjacent to this tract. *Toxolasma lividus lividus* (no common name) is listed as endangered by the state of Alabama and is a candidate for federal listing. *Lampsilis orbiculata*, the pink mucket pearly mussel, is federally listed as an endangered species and is listed by the state of Alabama as of special concern.

Tract No. 65 - (5.0 acres [2 ha])

- Planned Uses: Public Recreation
  Lake Access

- Relevant Data:

This approximately 5-acre (2-ha) tract was separated from the adjacent tract when the latter tract was allocated for industrial development. It was split to serve as a buffer between the state boat access ramp on Spring Creek Road and the industrial site and to provide room for expansion of the launching facilities as needed. It contains enough pines and riparian hardwoods to be effective as a buffer, but it is too small to be considered for allocation for other activities.

Tract No. 66 - (26.4 acres [10.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Protection
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This is a combined tract made up of a number of small islands of similar character in the Spring Creek embayment. All are low-lying and subject to flooding, with some being under water for a portion of the year. A few have developed a cover of low scrub shrub wetland vegetation, and there are adjacent or nearby aquatic bed wetlands. The islands have some value for wildlife, providing feeding, nesting, and cover habitat for waterfowl, songbirds, and other animals. They also serve as a visual screen or backdrop for the rest of the Spring Creek embayment. Wildlife management programs carried out on these islands must comply with visual management and cultural resource protection guidelines.

Tract No. 67 - (143.5 acres [58 ha])

- Planned Uses: Commercial Recreation
  Public Recreation
  Informal Recreation
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the left (east) bank of Spring Creek directly south of Spring Creek Road. The tract is a patchwork of pine (approximately 60 percent) and hardwood stands with intervening open pastureland and pockets of shrub and brush. The adjacent shallow waters of Spring Creek have large areas of submerged aquatic vegetation during some years. Approximately 45 percent of the tract is prime farmland and part of it is currently under agricultural license. There is considerable informal recreational use of the area, primarily by bank fishermen. The easy access by road and by water through the use of the adjacent state access ramp makes the tract desirable for future consideration for a local park. TVA forest and wildlife management practices will continue on an interim basis. All activities taking place on the site must comply with visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 68 - (269.6 acres [109 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Pine Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract makes up roughly the southern half of the left (west) bank of the Spring Creek embayment. It begins at a point some 4,920 feet (1,500 m) south of Spring Creek Road and extends southward along the shoreline to Swoope Pond Road. The tract continues the patchwork of land uses characteristic of the rest of the embayment, with pastureland and row crops alternating with pine stands and shrub and brush. Approximately 60 percent of the area is open space, and 30 percent is loblolly and shortleaf pine plantations, some of which date from the CCC period of the late 1930s. Approximately 45 percent of the acreage is classified as prime farmland, but most of the soil cover is also rated as highly or potentially highly erodible. Three active agricultural licenses help maintain the open nature of the landscape.

A small impoundment, Cottonwood Pond, is located in the southwestern corner of the tract. During some years, the shoreline along roughly the northern half of the tract is fronted by aquatic bed wetland, and several low islands lie a short distance offshore. The diversity of woodland and early successional habitats in this area supports a good small game population, and there are opportunities for further wildlife benefits through cooperative efforts in the management of the agricultural land. Some informal recreational use is evident, primarily from bank fishermen and hunters. A high amount of small game hunting takes place on the boundaries of this tract. A portion of this tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. All activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual management and cultural resource protection guidelines.

Tract No. 69 - (98.9 acres [40 ha])

- Planned Uses: Lake Access
  Informal Recreation
  Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract surrounds Swoope Pond and its outlet on the Spring Creek embayment south of Swoope Pond Road. The pond is separated from the main embayment by some 2,297 feet (700 m) of narrow outlet and the crossing by Swoope Pond Road. Entrance is by a marginal access track off the road. A TVA power transmission line crosses the southwestern arm of the pond. The shores of the pond are covered with a mix of pine, young hardwood, agricultural land, and pasture interspersed with pockets of scrub/shrub and forested and emergent wetland. Although this patchwork of vegetation is characteristic of the rest of the Spring Creek embayment, the cover here surrounds the pond closely, giving a more isolated and scenic feel to the area. About one-half the acreage is designated as prime farmland, although almost half of the soils are classed as highly or potentially highly erodible. The area is not subject to frequent flooding. The tract has all the characteristics of a good wildlife area, but the close containment by open agricultural land led to dropping an allocation for wildlife management. Considerable informal recreation already takes place at the pond, and there is an informal boat access already in use. All TVA activities taking place on this tract must conform to visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 70 - (285.2 acres [115.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This relatively large tract encompasses the shoreline and adjoining property over somewhat more than the southern half of the right (east) bank of Spring Creek. From a point some 2,953 feet (900 m) south of Spring Creek Road, the tract extends southward along the embayment to the mouth of the outlet of Swoope Pond and, following the outlet, continues to Swoope Pond Road. Access to the area is by either of the two roads mentioned or by water from a state access point across the embayment off Spring Creek Road. Most of this tract is open lands in row crop or pasture under agricultural license. A high amount of small game hunting takes place on the boundaries of this tract. There are strands of riparian vegetation, however, and two small ponds at the southern end support emergent wetlands. Several similar small flowage ponds located a short distance to the east drain through the tract into the embayment. During some years, aquatic bed wetlands occur sporadically along the shoreline, and there are a few small pockets of forested wetland. Only 5 percent of the land is subject to frequent flooding.

Approximately the southern third of this tract is designated prime farmland, and generally the same area is considered highly erodible. These soils are of medium productivity and are rated as having good capability for either pine or multiple-use forest management. If the present agricultural licenses are not renewed, TVA may plant trees on most of the tract. The diversity of herbaceous plant communities and successional types found in this area make it capable of supporting moderate-to-high small game and nongame populations. This tract and several other adjoining tracts have been identified in local or regional plans as having potential for industrial development, but no industry is located on the site at present. A portion of the tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Any activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual management and cultural resource protection guidelines.

Tract No. 71 - (46.1 acres [18.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Public Recreation
  Informal Recreation
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is bordered on the north by Spring Creek Road and extends some 2,953 feet (900 m) southward along the right (east) bank of Spring Creek. This tract is dominated by two pine plantations, one loblolly and one shortleaf, planted by CCC in the late 1930s, which together total about 30 acres (12 ha). Management practices such as thinning and controlled burns have been continued over the years, and the pines have now reached large sawtimber size with an estimated average net present value of $1,400 per acre. Virtually the entire shoreline is fronted by emergent wetlands and during some years by submerged aquatic vegetation.

This tract has been rated as good in both capability and suitability for an industrial site, and the adjacent backlying land has been identified for industrial development in some local and regional plans. However, the cost of extending a rail line to the waterfront has heretofore proven prohibitive, and the Spring Creek Road bridge, located immediately west of the site, is not constructed to carry heavy commercial vehicles. Because of these limitations, an industrial allocation was not considered at this time, but as industry develops along the waterfront and on adjacent properties, the tract may prove suitable for future consideration as an industrial site.

The immediate recreational benefits of the tract are more understandable. Some informal recreation is already taking place, including the use of an informal boat access located on the site. The location and ease of access to the tract (by noncommercial vehicles) also suggest that it could be developed for public recreation or as a local park. Current forestry management practices will continue on an interim basis until further development occurs. A portion of the tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. All activities taking place on the tract must comply with cultural resource protection and visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 72 - (155.1 acres [62.8 ha])

- Planned Uses: Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Forest Pine Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the right (east) bank of Spring Creek at its junction with Wheeler Reservoir. Access is by Spring Creek Road, which forms the southern boundary of the tract. Most of the tract is covered by a loblolly pine plantation of about 125 acres (51 ha) that was planted by CCC in the late 1930s. Such forestry management techniques as thinning and controlled burns have been continued over the years, and the pines have now reached sawtimber size with an estimated net present value in excess of $1,500 per acre. The balance of the tract contains an approximately 22-acre (9-ha) bottomland hardwood stand on the northeast side and a small open field in the southeast corner. A 12-acre (5-ha) agricultural license for row crops is included in this area. This is a high-priority tract for forestry because it has good access, gentle terrain, productive soils, excellent markets, and because it represents a significant forestry investment.

Wildlife management opportunities on this site are also viewed as excellent in cooperation with present forest management practices. This tract, along with the tract across Spring Creek Road to the south, was rated as good for industrial development in both capability and suitability and given a medium priority. However, the same structures noted for the tract across Spring Creek Road to the south, the transportation bottleneck to the west at Spring Creek Road bridge, and the cost of installing rail services to the waterfront also pertain here. Some informal recreation undoubtedly takes place here, but recreation was not allocated because of nearby areas of TVA land already designated for these activities.

The tract was not allocated for visual management because Forestry, following its BMPs, is obligated to leave a visual buffer of trees between the reservoir shoreline and any activities resulting in degradation of the visual resources. A domestic water intake is located in the mouth ofthe embayment offshore to the northwest of this tract. A small bay on the northeastern corner serves as a navigation safety harbor, and no private water use facilities are allowed in this area. Alterations to the shoreline along most of the remainder of the northern boundary require TVA's Navigations review through the Section 26a review process.

Tract No. 73 - (4.8 acres [1.9 ha])

- Planned Use: Lake Access

- Relevant Data:

Located on the left (west) shore of Goldfield Branch embayment, this small retained developed tract contains one of only three TVA launching ramps on Wheeler Reservoir. Access is by Spring Creek Road, which defines the southern boundary of the tract.

Tract No. 74 - (13.7 acres [5.5 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This is made up of two small tracts located on either side of Goldfield Branch embayment just south of Spring Creek Road, which provides access to both pieces of the tract. The land is generally wooded and provides some informal recreation, but the tract was not requested for forest or wildlife management, because of its small size. The visual management allocation should preserve the characteristics that help make it attractive for informal recreation. Any activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 75 - (10.8 acres [4.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Informal Recreation
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small tract extends about 1,312 feet (400 m) northward from Spring Creek Road along the right (east) bank of Goldfield Branch embayment. It is generally wooded and provides some informal recreation, primarily for bank fishermen. Under TVA's forecast system, Navigation Operations had identified a minor commercial landing site along a portion of the western shoreline in Goldfield Branch. This landing site has not been used in several years and was anticipated to be used for timber products harvested from this tract. However, forestry is no longer a planned use for the tract. Activities associated with a minor commercial landing would conflict with existing boating, camping, fishing, and other recreational uses occupying the same water surface and shoreline area. In addition, movements of barge activities would be restricted because of the narrow configuration of the embayment. Alternative barge sites are located downstream near Spring Creek and could be used for a minor commercial land if necessary. Any activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 76 - (163.1 acres [66 ha])

- Planned Uses: Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Informal Recreation
  Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This long area of shoreline extending along the left (south) bank of the reservoir east of Goldfield Branch Spring Creek between Tennessee River miles 285 and 287 is the former site of Lawrence County Park. Access is from Spring Creek Road, which parallels the property a short distance to the south. From the reservoir, this tract presents a view of rolling wooded upland above a high and steeply eroded bank. The soil types indicate one reason for the steep bank configuration: 100 percent of the soils at the surface are considered to have high erosion potential. An oak-hickory forest averaging about 70 years old dominates about 130 acres (53 ha) of the upland.

Bottomland hardwood about 40 years old covers 50 acres (20 ha), and there is one small planted loblolly plantation. The trees show evidence of several past wildfires. Considerable small game hunting currently takes place. Forest management practices, such as commercial thinning and timber stand improvement, have been conducted here during the last ten years, and the estimated net present value of the timber ranges from over $1,000 per acre in the bottomland hardwood to nearly $2,000 per acre in the pine plantation. The entire tract is rated excellent for both multiple-use and pine plantation forestry management, and it has some value for the management of upland wildlife.

At the western end of the tract, along the east bank of Goldfield Branch, there is a shoreline restriction area for a safety harbor and no private water use facilities will be allowed. The safety harbor is flanked on the east by a short section of shoreline requiring TVA Navigation review under the Section 26a process.

As noted earlier, this tract was leased to Lawrence County for public recreation (county park) from November 1955 to October 1974 when the lease was allowed to expire by the county. There still may be some potential for public recreation or a park on this tract; however, the steep shoreline virtually eliminates access to the lake, making the property less desirable for this purpose. All activities taking place on this tract must comply with cultural resource protection and visual management guidelines.

In June of 1992 the West Morgan-East Lawrence Water Authority (Water Authority) approached TVA with a request for 10 acres (4 ha) of land to develop a new raw-water intake and treatment facility. The Wheeler planning team offered comments and recommendations to the consulting engineers as to alternative sites along the south shore near Spring Creek. The planning team's recommendations were based on discussions relating to the tract allocation process and a field inspection of the alternative sites. The planning team recommended a parcel located at the easternmost end of this tract (formerly Tract No. XWR-377R) as the best location.

The planning team identified two areas of concern:

1. The planning team requested the consulting engineering firm to provide a *preliminary* site plan to TVA for review prior to commitment of the 10-acre (4-ha) grant of permanent easement. After review of the information, the team concluded the request for 10 acres (4 ha) was justified.

2. A second concern related to existing cultural resources. The site selected was tested, but not to a confidence level anticipating construction excavation. Significant cultural resources were located west of the proposed development site. Also adjacent to the proposed water treatment site is an existing historic feature. A large stone monument erected in the 1930's by the Wheeler Memorial Association to identify General Joseph Wheeler's crossing the Tennessee River with his command. The monument and adjoining environment should be protected from further vandalism and site deterioration. The planning team recommends TVA work in partnership with the Water Authority to preserve and interpret this historic feature as part of the public utility project.

These concerns were addressed by the Water Authority to TVA's satisfaction. TVA's decision was to expedite the land request prior to approval of the Wheeler Plan because of the urgency relating to a public water service improvement for valley residents. Therefore, on July 1993 the TVA Board of Directors approved the request.

Tract No. 77 - (38.6 acres [15.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Informal Recreation
  Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is on the left (south) bank of the reservoir near Tennessee River mile 287. Access, though poor, is from Spring Creek Road, passing the tract a short distance to the south, or by water. The soils are rated as having high erosion potential over approximately 85 percent of the area. The forest cover here ranges from sawtimber-size upland hardwood with an estimated net present value of almost $1,000 per acre in the west to a cedar-hardwood mix on the eastern portion of the tract. The capability for forest management is rated excellent in the west, grading fair or good in the east. In any event, the steep topography, poor access, and small size of the parcels downgrade the tract for suitability for forest management, and most forestry or wildlife management practices, such as timber harvesting, would conflict with a visual protection allocation on these narrow shoreline tracts. Informal recreational use, however, should not conflict with this allocation. Visual protection is important because the location of this tract, on a long northern bend of the river, makes it visible for miles in either direction. The entire shoreline fronting this tract is under navigation restrictions for a safety landing and day board. All activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual protection guidelines.

Tract No. 78 - (57.8 acres [23.4 ha])

- Planned Use: Forest Multiple-Use Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract surrounds the upper end of Lucy's Branch embayment north of Snake Road on the right (north) bank of the reservoir near Tennessee River mile 287. Snake Road furnishes access. Part of the tract is a 40-year-old bottomland hardwood forest with an estimated net present value of about $1,000 per acre, and part (about 12 acres [4.9 ha]) of the tract supports a loblolly pine plantation dating from the CCC period of the late 1930s. The net present value of the pine plantation is approximately $2,200 per acre. Soils here are high-to-medium productivity for forestland, but roughly 20 percent of the land is subject to flooding. Eighty percent of the soil area is classed as highly erodible or potentially highly erodible.

Members of the Little Elk Church have requested a deed of title and easement of access to a small cemetery located on this tract. TVA will consider issuing a license for cleaning up the abandoned cemetery site and for installation of a security fence around the plot as approved by TVA. Additionally, TVA will work with church trustees to identify an alignment for a foot path or service road access from Snake Road to the cemetery. TVA will consider reviewing all church plans for investment and construction regarding the development of an improved access. If approved, TVA would issue a license or other written agreement to confirm the establishment of an access to the cemetery. The Wheeler planning team recommends such access be placed in a location that would not conflict with existing forest management activities or any future recreational trail construction associated with the adjacent Limestone County Park.

Tract No. 79 - (34.7 acres [14 ha])

- Planned Uses: Public Recreation
  Lake Access

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the left (east) bank of Lucy's Branch embayment where the stream meets the reservoir. It is bounded on the north by Snake Road, which provides access. Most of this partly wooded tract is the old Lucy's Branch (or Limestone County) Park. A county lake access ramp is located on this tract, adjacent to the park. The shoreline near the ramp has been used by local residents for fishing and informal camping for a number of years. This tract should remain allocated for local park and lake access, and the TVA ramp should be upgraded.

Tract No. 80 - (3.1 acres [1.3 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small triangular tract is located on the first sizable inlet east of Lucy's Branch on the right (north) branch of the reservoir near Tennessee River mile 288. Access is by Snake Road, which defines the northern border of the tract. This wooded area is subject to flooding, and the soil is classed as highly erodible. There is an informal lake access point on the property. The tract is subject to littering and other undesirable forms of behavior by casual users, and there have apparently been some complaints lodged by nearby residents and landowners. The access road should be closed by ditching, leaving the vegetation undisturbed to create a visual screen. All activities on the tract must comply with visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 81 - (8.5 acres [3.4 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of two narrow parcels of steep, bluff-like, wooded shoreline located on the right (north) bank of the reservoir near Tennessee River mile 288. The tract is too steep and inaccessible to be of value for most activities; however, it provides a visual screen for the shoreline of the reservoir. Both parcels in this tract were formerly Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Any activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 82 - (7.8 acres [3.2 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This is another narrow shoreline tract located directly upstream from an adjoining tract with much the same character and description. It is steep, bluff-like, and partially wooded, and the soils have high erosion potential. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. The vegetation and abrupt topography of this tract create a visual screen for the shoreline, and any activities taking place here must comply with cultural resource protection and visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 83 - (2.9 acres [1.2 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management
- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the right (north) bank of the reservoir near Tennessee River mile 290 in the Egypt Bluff area. The terrain is steep, bluff-like, and partially wooded, and the soils are highly erodible. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Any activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 84 - (6.0 acres [2.4 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Protection
- Relevant Data:

This tract is another narrow wooded tract with a bluff on the right (north) bank of the reservoir near Tennessee River mile 290 in the Egypt Bluff area. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Any activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual protection guidelines.

Tract No. 85 - (3.1 acres [1.3 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management
- Relevant Data:

Like the adjoining tract, this is a narrow, steep, partially wooded tract of bluff-like terrain located on the right (north) bank of the reservoir near Tennessee River mile 290 in the Egypt Bluff area. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. The steep terrain creates a visual backdrop for the reservoir, and any activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 86 - (6.7 acres [2.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This is a wooded tract of bluff-like topography overlooking a small inlet on the right bank of the reservoir near Tennessee River mile 290. During some years the inlet contains a small area of aquatic bed wetland. The tract is inaccessible and too steep for most uses, and approximately 90 percent of the soil area is classified as highly erodible. However, the steep terrain serves as a visual backdrop for the reservoir. Any activities taking place on this tract must comply with cultural resource protection and visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 87 - (11.4 acres [4.6 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract combines two narrow parcels of land on the right (north) bank of the reservoir downstream from Poplar Creek near Tennessee River mile 291. The topography is steep, rocky, and bluff-like, with poor access and highly erodible soils. Both parcels in this tract were formerly Reservoir Operations tracts under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. The steep and partially wooded terrain serves as a visual backdrop for the reservoir. Any activities taking place on this tract must comply with visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 88 - (116.2 acres [47 ha])

- Planned Uses: Commercial Recreation
  Public Recreation
  Lake Access

- Relevant Data:

This tract of land supports TVA's Mallard Creek Public Recreation Area and is located to the east of Mallard Creek Road in Lawrence County. The tract is easily accessible and a large stand was planted to loblolly pine by CCC in the late 1930s. Although the pine has reached large sawtimber size and has a net present value of over $1,600 per acre, the proximity of the public use area makes forest management unsuitable for this tract. During some years, submersed aquatic plant are prevalent along the entire shoreline fronting the tract. TVA has designated a herbicide treatment area around the swimming beach embayment and downstream below Lakeview Subdivision. TVA's Vector Control has also located mosquito dipping stations and index stations on the tract to monitor populations of this insect. Bald cypress trees have been planted in the upper ends of some coves and embayments on this tract to reduce habitat where mosquitos breed.

Existing recreational facilities developed by TVA include a fee campground, toilet building, swimming beach and bath house, boat ramp and parking, picnic area, and other improvements. The shallow embayment east of Mallard Creek Road could be dredged to provide a small protected harbor for a commercial marina. A planted bald cypress plantation occurs in the upstream portion of the embayment and will not be disturbed if portions of the embayment are commercially developed. Note: The cypress plantation should not be disturbed because of ongoing monitoring and aesthetic value.

Some user conflict has been recorded between citizens who frequent TVA's Public Recreation Area and the local neighbors who live in the nearby Lakeview Subdivision. The shared access road, additional traffic in the neighborhood, noise, and shoreline conjestion appear to generate complaints from both citizen groups.

This area is the largest TVA public recreational facility on Wheeler Reservoir and is heavily used, especially during the summer months.

Citizens participating in the three Wheeler public workshops requested TVA develop more areas like Mallard/Fox Creek. The improvements, location, and access to the site, from the water or land, gives this tract excellent capability and a high land need for public recreation.

Tract No. 89 - (1.4 acres [.57 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Protection
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is composed of two small islands located in Mallard Creek. The land has a high potential for eroding and is located in a 100-year flood elevation area—meaning that it does occasionally experience flooding. During some years submerged vegetation occurs in shallow water around the islands. Submerged aquatic vegetation and forested wetlands present on the islands provide a suitable area for waterbird resting and/or feeding. The use of adjacent land for the purposes of public recreation requires that the island retain its visual integrity. Also present on the site are significant cultural resources that merit protection. Any activities on this tract must comply with visual protection guidelines.

Tract No. 90 - (5.2 acres [2.1 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located north of the Mallard Creek Causeway Bridge and west of Mallard Creek Road. To the west, this tract abuts TVA fee-owned property currently under license to the state of Alabama for a wildlife management area. The area on both sides of the causeway receives moderate levels of informal recreational use for bank fishing. A loblolly pine stand occupies most of the tract, but the stand is not large enough to be suitable for forest management. However, the tract does provide additional habitat for forest-related wildlife. A moderate amount of small game currently occurs. The existing pine stand provides a suitable visual and noise abatement buffer from highway traffic for both the wildlife management area and adjoining TVA public recreation area. There are outstanding contract easements with Lawrence County associated with utility and road rights-of-way for that segment of the tract used for the bridge causeway. During some years submersed aquatic bed wetlands front the shoreline behind the causeway. The water quality of the lake at this location is classified as impaired use because of seasonally low levels of dissolved oxygen in the shallow areas of Mallard Creek embayment.

Tract No. 91 - (23.7 acres [9.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Commercial Recreation
  Public Recreation
  Lake Access

- Relevant Data:

This tract, located on the south shore of Mallard Creek, is divided by County Road 48 (Mallard Creek Road). The road is the primary access to the tract and also provides access to TVA's Mallard Creek Public Recreation Area, located across the embayment. The parcel along the west side of the road is small and supports a concrete boat ramp operated by the abutting property owner, Mallard Creek Fish Camp. This locally owned business (fishing supply and grocery) occupies a site formerly sold by TVA for commercial development. The ramp facility is privately operated and maintained under permits from TVA and USACE.

The remainder of the tract, located east of the road, joins the Mallard Fox Creek State Wildlife Management Area. The TVA parcel, which is open and covered with grass is outside the 100-year flood elevation. The water level at the shoreline is shallow and during some years submersed aquatic bed vegetation fronts the entire tract. TVA's Vector Control has formally identified this parcel for mechanical control of vegetation for mosquito control. Both east and west sides of the bridge and causeway are TVA herbicide treatment areas. These sites have been selected to help control aquatic vegetation within the recreational use areas associated with the boat ramp and bridge crossing.

A request has been submitted to TVA from the adjoining commercial operator for the development of a new boat ramp facility. The proposed site is located east on private land between the county highway and TVA property. Limited boat clearance under the bridge and the increased demand for boat launching, as well as sport fishing tournaments, have encouraged the improvement and expansion of this commercial facility. A portion of TVA property could be requested for the development of a parking area and possibly other future public recreational opportunities associated with this or other commercial ventures.

Tract No. 92 - (50.0 acres [20 ha])

- Planned Uses: Public Recreation
  Lake Access
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located at Tennessee River mile 297.1 and is known as the Round Island Creek recreation area. Already present at this recreation area are a TVA fee campground and a lake access area. Cow Ford Road is a public, all-weather road that provides direct access to the site, while the existing ramp promotes lake access for water-related recreational activities. This area receives particularly heavy recreational use, partly because of its proximity to metropolitan Decatur and partly because of its excellent accessibility. TVA has designated

a herbicide treatment area around the swimming area, boat ramp, and campground. A mixed forest stand on the westernmost portion of the tract provides a natural setting which complements the recreational area. Any activities on this tract will comply with visual management guidelines.

Tract No. 93 - (74.3 acres [30 ha])

- Planned Uses: Public Recreation
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is adjacent to the Round Island Creek Public Use Area. Mixed forest occurs on the westernmost portion of the tract, with hardwoods at the upper end; the middle portion of the tract is pastureland. During some years submersed aquatic vegetation occurs in shallow water adjacent to this tract. Although the prime farmland rating for this land is poor, there is at least one existing agricultural license. Significant cultural resources are located on the tract, and care will be taken to protect them. Because of the tract's proximity to the already existing TVA Public Use Area at Round Island, and because of the increasing population in both Decatur and Huntsville, it was appropriate to allocate this land for public recreation. However, public recreation activities will require coordination with TVA's Cultural Resources and compliance with cultural resource protection guidelines.

Tract No. 94 - (182.0 acres [73.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Informal Recreation
  Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Forest Pine Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This large tract is situated south of Browns Ferry/Huntsville Road and continues to the east, fronting Round Island Creek. It is easily accessible by road and is often used as an informal recreation area.

Loblolly pine dominates the tract, with approximately 83 acres (34 ha) of pine planted by CCC in the late 1930s. The CCC plantations represent a significant forestry investment, with the net present value for this pine averaging $1,450 per acre. The pine stands have been thinned several times, but since they are approaching maturity, they will need to be regenerated. As a result of past pine thinning, there is an excellent vegetative diversity that supports a variety of upland wildlife species here. A moderate amount of small game currently occurs. Forested wetlands also occur on portions of this tract. Forest management activities will be conducted in accordance with visual management guidelines to protect the aesthetic integrity of this area.

Tract No. 95 - (1.8 acres [.73 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of four small islands located in Round Island Creek. The characteristics of the islands are similar, with either forested or aquatic wetlands which provide a good habitat for waterfowl. The islands are situated in the 100-year flood elevation and do experience occasional high water. The islands provide a visual barrier also.

Tract No. 96 - (2.4 acres [.97 ha])

- Planned Use: Wildlife Management

- Relevant Data:

Bisected by Browns Ferry Road, this tract is largely forested wetlands with a small portion of upland hardwoods. These characteristics make it most suited to wildlife management. A moderate amount of small game currently occurs.

Tract No. 97 - (14.5 acres [5.9 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This triangular parcel of land lies to the east of Vanzille Lane and is essentially pastureland. It is designated 85 percent prime farmland and currently supports a row crop agricultural license. Forested wetlands have been identified on the tract and over half of it lies in the 100-year flood elevation, the area most prone to flooding. Two historic structures are located on adjacent property. Visual management will ensure there are no adverse impacts on the scenic landscape.

Tract No. 98 - (55.3 acres [22.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This large tract is situated to the west of Vanzille Lane and fronts Round Island Creek. All but a small portion of the tract is open land. Although it is estimated to be only 50 percent prime farmland, there is an existing row crop agricultural license. Cultural resources may be present which will necessitate the review of the agricultural license during the next leasing phase. The agriculture fields are important in wildlife management as they allow for native vegetation to buffer the shoreline, which, in turn, provides additional cover for game and nongame wildlife and small deer herds. It currently receives a moderate amount of big game

hunting as well as a moderate-to-high amount of small game hunting, mostly raccoon and squirrel. Located at the end of the peninsula is an informal lake access which could be improved to facilitate fishing and hunting. The vegetation along the shoreline will be retained as a scenic buffer.

Tract No. 99 - (88.7 acres [35.9 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract lies to the south of Beulah Bay Road and to the east of an informal access road; the tract fronts on the water. Most of the tract is open land, but two small hardwood stands can be found here. While the land is only 50 percent prime farmland, there is an existing agricultural row-crop license in effect which will be reviewed in 1993. Significant cultural resources exist on adjacent property as well as on this tract. These resources will be protected, as will the visual quality of the shoreline.

Tract No. 100 - (8.5 acres [3.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of five islands located at the mouth of Round Island Creek. These islands have a high propensity for soil erosion; however, forested wetlands do occur on several of them. Cultural resources are present, making these islands extremely significant from a cultural preservation standpoint. The visual quality of the islands is also significant.

Tract No. 101 - (62.0 acres [25 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is the large island located at the mouth of Round Island Creek. A 62-acre (25-ha) loblolly pine plantation, planted in 1962, will mature on this island. This sawtimber stand has a net present value of $2,200 per acre; however, access creates problems for thinning and harvesting. The island's forest stand provides a natural scenic quality that should be protected. The tract also contains significant cultural resources that must be protected. This tract was not allocated for forest management, but in order to sustain a healthy pine plantation, some cutting or thinning is required. Thus, any forest management activities will be coordinated with TVA's Cultural Resources and Visual Protection staff so that the cultural and visual integrity of this tract is protected.

Tract No. 102 - (3.4 acres [1.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Fleeting Area
  Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

Finley Island, located at Tennessee River mile 299, makes up this tract. There is a safety harbor on the north side of the island. Federal mooring cells located in the harbor are occasionally used for informal barge fleeting. Forested wetlands are the primary land cover of the island. As the riverfront is primarily industrial in this area of Wheeler Reservoir, the natural qualities of the island provide a scenic respite.

Tract No. 103 - (0.2 acre [.08 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of several barrier islands located at Tennessee River mile 300. This tract contains significant cultural resources that will be protected, as will the visual quality of the barrier islands.

Tract No. 104 - (4.5 acres [1.8 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of several islands at the mouth of Bakers Creek, Tennessee River mile 301. The islands are located along the navigation channel which provide towboat and barge access to the Decatur-Morgan County Port. Because of questionable water quality (a fish kill occurred just south of these islands and there are a number of industrial discharges upstream), these islands are not suited to significant wildlife management practices. However, because of the highly industrialized nature of Wheeler Reservoir around Bakers Creek, the contrasting natural scenic qualities of these islands will be preserved.

Tract No. 105 - (8.9 acres [3.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Protection
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

Located at the mouth of Dry Branch in Morgan County are the three islands that constitute this tract. The three islands are adjacent to a navigation channel serving the Tennessee Valley River Terminal and Denbo Iron and Steel Company. The tract is also adjacent to the Decatur Sewage Treatment Plant. Once again, the natural characteristics of the islands become significant as the islands are contrasted with the highly industrialized waterfront. The islands and surrounding shallow water overbank areas support mudflat and riparian/ wetland fringe habitats used by a variety of water-oriented and semi-aquatic wildlife species. These species generally include migrant-wintering waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds, as well as resident wading birds and furbearing mammals relatively tolerant of nearby disturbance from Decatur waterfront industrial development. Cultural resources have been identified at this location; thus, these three islands are significant from both a cultural and visual preservation standpoint.

Tract No. 106 - (9.9 acres [4 ha])

- Planned Use: Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract abuts Consolidated Freightway, north of Highway 20 in West Decatur. A strip of trees and a riprap bank constitute the current shoreline. Cultural resources are located on the tract as well as on adjacent property: a series of early twentieth-century vernacular houses and a store. These structures and their setting could be adversely affected if development occurred on this tract. All activities performed on this tract will be conducted in accordance with cultural resources guidelines.

Tract No. 107 - (6.3 acres [2.5 ha])

- Planned Use: NO LONGER PLAN LAND - BELOW ELEVATION 560

- Relevant Data:

This TVA parcel is located at the back of Betty Rye Branch, south of the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Current use of the land includes a sewer lift/pump station building and a major sewer trunkline. The city of Decatur holds an easement (Contract No. 214628) for this utility right-of-way. A portion of the property also receives informal recreational use from an abutting community park. This portion contains a few large pine trees and the balance is open land. Scrub shrub wetlands are located near the banks of Betty Rye Branch. This low area is susceptible to flooding from Wheeler Reservoir during periods of high water. Because the entire tract is below the 560-foot contour, the Wheeler planning team removed this TVA (marginal strip) land from other tracts identified as plan land.

Tract No. 108 - (0.4 acre [.16 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for surplus and disposal

- Relevant Data:

Highway 20 divides this tract so that it lies both to the north and to the south of the highway, with frontage on Dry Branch. The tract is less than 1 acre (.40 ha) in size, and it is not needed for flood protection. The tract is too small to adequately promote significant wildlife or forest management practices. There are no significant cultural resources on this tract or on adjacent property, and there is no suitable recreational quality. It has no suitability for industrial development by TVA either. Therefore, it is recommended that TVA dispose of this tract through a public auction. (Section 31 sale)

Tract No. 109 - (3.0 acres [1.2 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for an easement

- Relevant Data:

This tract lies on the northeast bank of Dry Branch and to the south of Highway 20. Because of good accessibility and a nearby residential community, the tract does experience informal recreational use. At present this green space, located across from a city fire station, is being maintained by the city of Decatur. The planning team recommends TVA contact Decatur officials and TVA transfer the title via a permanent easement to the city for public recreation.

Tract No. 110 - (36.9 acres [15 ha])

- Planned Uses: Public Recreation
  Informal Recreation
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located just downstream of the Highway 31/72 causeway. It is currently permitted to the city of Decatur (Contract No. TV-13143A) for an informal recreation area; it is extremely popular and receives heavy use, especially for fishing. The tract contains the new pumpstation for the Harris-Sweetwater area. Forested wetlands, as well as a small stand of mixed forest, are located on the tract. This growth provides a small wooded area in the midst of heavy commercial and industrial development. The tract is easily accessible; however, the access is dangerous and should be improved. Because of the current popularity of this spot, informal recreation and visual management are encouraged.

Tract No. 111 - (2.1 acres [.85 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small, retained developed tract is located to the west of Highway 31 (Bee Line Highway). The Norfolk and Southern Railway crosses the tract on its northern end. Access to the tract is excellent, and it is currently being used by TVA as a small maintenance base. Visually the tract should remain as it is.

Tract No. 112 - (8.3 acres [3.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Habitat Protection Area

- Relevant Data:

This tract is adjacent to Highway 31 and was formerly a roadside rest area that has been abandoned by the state. Athens State Community College has requested a long-term lease agreement to use this site as an environmental awareness/research center/biology field station. Two fish species, each a candidate for federal listing, occur in springs adjacent to this tract: the undescribed spring pygmy sunfish (*Elassoma sp.*) and the Tuscumbia darter (*Etheostoma Tuscumbia*). The spring pygmy sunfish is known to occur in only one other locality. Athens College plans to rehabilitate the abandoned buildings on the site to house their center; research would focus on the limestone springs that are the habitat for the rare fish species. The college has arranged funding for this renovation, as well as environmental education efforts for elementary, secondary, and college students. As part of a former rest area, the paved drive and parking areas provide an excellent, ready space to accommodate groups without impacting sensitive resources.

To the east of this tract is a series of plantations, most of which are still agriculturally based and still in single-family private ownership. These structures date from the 1830s through the 1850s, with the most significant plantation being Belle Mina, the home of former Governor Bibbs. This general area is extremely significant because it is the best example of a rural landscape dating before the Civil War in the Tennessee Valley.

TVA's Cultural Resources suggests an effort be made to encourage citizens and neighboring communities within this area to protect the significant attributes of the adjoining cultural landscape. As a value-added benefit, the allocated use of this tract for habitat protection and visual management would exemplify a sensitivity toward protection of the environment and the visual integrity of the adjoining landscape.

Tract No. 113 - (30.9 acres [12.5 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Forest Pine Management
  Wildlife Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract, to the north of Alternate Highway 72 and to the south of Airport Road, has a land cover that is partially forested wetlands. It is in the 100-year flood elevation, the zone most susceptible to flooding, and is often wet. Red cedar is located on the drier portions, hackberry on the wetter. A small portion of this tract contains a loblolly pine stand that is approximately five years old. Adjacent land use includes agriculture. A moderate amount of small game currently occurs. Because of the adjacent land use and the vegetation that occurs on this tract, it is best suited to forest and wildlife management.

Tract No. 114 - (2.5 acres [1 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for surplus and disposal

- Relevant Data:

This tract, located in Decatur to the southeast of Alternate Highway 72. It contains multiple tracts for an industrial rail siding and a utility pump station. The planning team believes there is less than three acres remaining because of the adjacent railroad right-of-way on TVA property. The tract has no water frontage and no real viable use for TVA. This tract's capability and suitability was rated poor, and it ranked low for requested land need. TVA comments stated that limited public benefit would be realized from continued management of the resources located on the tract. The planning team recommends the tract be sold through TVA Section 31 sale for commercial/industrial development.

Tract No. 115 - (5.6 acres [2.3 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for an easement

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of four narrow barrier islands located between Tennessee River mile 206.5 and 306.5 left bank. The islands contain scrub shrub wetlands and provide a natural landscape in the midst of industrialization. Because of the protection offered by the river, waterfowl frequent these small strips of land. The Wheeler Refuge lies to the north of these islands; the islands provide an excellent buffer between the Wheeler Refuge and the city of Decatur. During the Wheeler public workshops, FWS (Refuge Director) requested these four islands be transferred to Wheeler Refuge. On a seasonal basis, the islands are heavily used by waterfowl hunters. Currently, FWS has no legal jurisdiction to provide control of the hunting or protection for wildlife on the islands. The planning team recommends TVA consider supplementing Contract No. TV-19470A (FWS and TVA) and transfer the four

barrier islands to Wheeler Refuge. This would provide consistency in land and wildlife management activities within this segment of the river. In addition, the transfer would also help to alleviate public confusion as to which agency regulations apply to hunting on these parcels of land. Language should be placed in the transfer document which would protect the visual integrity of the natural landscape offered by these islands as a buffer between the Decatur industrial waterfront and the reservoir resource.

Tract No. 116 - (1.8 acres [.73 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Protection
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

Seven islands near Tennessee River mile 308 form this tract. Because of the heavy amount of development along the Decatur waterfront and the proximity to Wheeler Refuge, visual protection was determined to be necessary to create natural visual barriers. Also, the significant cultural resources located on this tract will be protected.

Tract No. 117 - (1.4 acres [.57 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located in an embayment on the eastern end of the Decatur waterfront, just west of Mallard Point Park. It was formerly an island and is owned in fee title by TVA. At some point, the shallow wetland between the island and the mainland was filled without prior TVA/USACE approval. The Wheeler planning team deemed it prudent to retain the former island for visual or navigational aids, anticipating implementation by the city of Decatur of its long-range plans to develop a commercial marina and lodge facility within the adjacent slough. Currently, a waterfront industrial firm is using this public land as part of a corporate recreation area but without a permit. The planning team recommended that TVA issue the firm a 30-day revocable license at a fee based on the appraised value for recreational purposes. If the license is issued, the planning team further recommends the firm maintain the tract for visual management, not permitting additional shoreline alterations or improvements. This would avoid conflict if TVA were to cancel the license for future need, i.e., Decatur's plans for commercial development. The planning team also recommended permanent boundary signs be placed on posts to identify the end of the peninsula (formerly the island) as TVA lands and not private property.

Tract No. 118 - (2.1 acres [.85 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for an easement
- Relevant Data:

This tract is a remnant parcel of land isolated from Wheeler Refuge by Country Club Road. It was returned to TVA May 14, 1975, from FWS as part of their boundary relocation project. Prior to 1976, the Decatur Country Club encroached on this tract with the development of their entrance road and parking lot. A request for a TVA updated land survey was completed in 1993 and confirms the private encroachment. The 1993 boundary survey also revealed a portion of a golf tee was being constructed on TVA property. This tract's capability and suitability was rated poor, and it ranked low for requested land need. TVA comments stated that limited public benefit would be realized from continued management of the resources located on the tract. The planning team recommends TVA dispose of this tract through a TVA Section 31 sale for commercial or private recreational development. The tract's greatest asset is the natural resource and aesthetic integrity offered to the local community.

Tract No. 119 - (1.6 acres [.65 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for an easement
- Relevant Data:

Located along State Route 67 on the west side of Flint Creek, this tract was reduced in size by a highway-widening improvement project. The tract is isolated from the reservoir and adjoins a private residence on the corner of Highway 67 and Country Club Road. The planning team recommends TVA dispose of the tract by transferring title by permanent easement to the city of Decatur for future street improvement.

Tract No. 120 - (0.7 acre [.28 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for an easement
- Relevant Data:

This small tract is situated along the Highway 67 road embankment on the east side of Flint Creek. It is isolated from the reservoir and has been a remnant parcel from widening State Highway 67. The planning team recommends TVA transfer by permanent easement the tract to the Alabama State Department of Transportation (ADOT) as part of the highway right-of-way.

Tract No. 121 - (13.6 acres [5.5 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for surplus and disposal
- Relevant Data:

The tract is situated between lower River Road (Alabama Route 40) and Highway 67, east of Flint Creek near Crowton, Alabama. It was a remnant transferred back to TVA (1975) from a small "wet weather" stream and supports a small stand of bottomland hardwood timber.

Almost half the tract is below the maximum shoreline 560-foot (170.7-m) contour elevation and frequently fills with water from the reservoir via a culvert located midway along the southern boundary of the tract. A commercial license for a small business parking lot (one-fourth-or-less acre) currently exists with TVA on the western end of the tract. During the Wheeler public workshops, TVA received a request from a local proprietor to purchase part of the tract. Besides flood storage and the aesthetic value associated with the timber, the TVA property above the 560-foot (170.7-m) contour could provide for expansion of existing or new commercial development. The planning team recommends TVA sell (through TVA Section 31) that portion of the tract above the 560-foot contour for commercial or private businesses located along State Route 40 and 67.

Tract No. 122 - (3.8 acres [1.5 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for surplus and disposal
- Relevant Data:

The tract is an unmanageable remnant south of Decatur. It was transferred back to TVA from FWS, Wheeler Refuge. The tract is isolated from the reservoir. The northern boundary runs along a drainage ditch which empties into Flint Creek. The eastern boundary has suitable road access fronting U.S. Highway 31, three miles south of State Route 67. Commercial businesses are located to the north along Highway 31 and an existing rail runs behind the tract to the west. The southern boundary abuts private property presently used for an automotive salvage yard.

The tract is currently covered with pool-sized pine timber and scrub shrub vegetation. The planning team recommends TVA dispose of the tract through TVA Section 31 sale for commercial development.

Tract No. 123 - (736.3 acres [298 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

All of the TVA property along West Flint Creek and the large and small islands are included in this tract. As is typical of most forested TVA lands, a variety of forest types and situations can be found in the area. Bottomland hardwood dominates and consists of primarily sawtimber size sweetgum, oaks (water, willow, and cherrybark), hackberry, and ash. The age of these stands varies from 50 to 100 years, and much of the older hardwood is mature and will need to be regenerated in the near future. The net present value of the hardwood component averages over $1,200 per acre, although mortality and degradation will continue to reduce this value in the older stands. Scattered areas of both natural and planted loblolly pine range in size from 1 to 20 acres (.40 to 8 ha) and total nearly 200 acres (81 ha). Portions of these stands have been damaged by southern pine beetle infestations and were harvested to salvage the pine and prevent further damage. Routine thinning has been conducted to increase vigor and growth. Capability for both forestry categories was rated high on this tract because of the excellent forest resources that are present. Suitability also rates high because of the excellent timber markets in the area, available access, and the previous forestry investment in pine planting and thinning.

The bottomland hardwood on this tract is important to many different types of wildlife. Periodic flooding in the lowland areas provides excellent nesting and brood-rearing habitat for wood ducks, and wintering waterfowl use these areas for foraging mast. Such wetland species as beaver, mink, muskrat, and raccoon are also plentiful along this floodprone tract, as well as white-tailed deer and gray squirrel. Scattered stands of loblolly pine and upland hardwood provide habitat diversity, which is very important to wildlife species. A large amount of big and small game hunting occurs here. Forest soil productivity is rated as high on most of the area, and prime farmland is present on about half of the tract. Also present are emergent and forested wetlands. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 124 - (121.1 acres [49 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Corridor
  Visual Management

- Relevant data:

This tract is located along the left (west) bank of Flint Creek from river mile 12.6 to river mile 14.9. River corridor protection is an emerging concept that provides for areas along rivers and streams to remain in a natural or undisturbed condition. Tracts on both sides of Flint Creek have been allocated river corridor protection or other compatible uses that will ensure the natural and scenic integrity. Low impact recreation—such as hiking, bicycling,

and fishing—is possible along this corridor, while some areas will remain in an undeveloped state simply to provide an undisturbed forest buffer.

Bottomland hardwood dominates this tract, although pine and upland hardwood are also present to a lesser degree. Typical tree species found on the creek floodplain are water, willow, and cherrybark oak, sweetgum, ash, and red maple, while the upland areas are forested in white oak, southern red oak, and hickory. Much of the hardwood is at or approaching maturity and ranges from 70 to 100 years old. A portion of the hardwood underwent timber stand improvement activities recently to improve the existing stand through removal of poor-quality trees. Loblolly is the dominant pine species, occurring in both planted and natural stands. A variety of wildlife species inhabit and use these diverse forest conditions. Waterfowl and wetland furbearers are prevalent on the more floodprone areas, while healthy populations of white-tailed deer and gray squirrel occur in moderate numbers on both the upland and bottomland areas. Forest and wildlife management were dropped by the planning team because they conflict with the river corridor protection allocation.

Tract No. 125 - (122.8 acres [49.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Corridor
  Habitat Protection Area

- Relevant data:

This tract encompasses the right (east) bank of Flint Creek from river mile 12.6 to river mile 15.9. A variety of forest environments is present on the tract, including upland and bottomland hardwood, pine-hardwood mixtures, and loblolly pine plantations. About 31 acres (12.5 ha) of the loblolly pine were recently harvested because of pine beetle infestation and should produce a future stand of mixed pine and hardwood. Overall, the uncut areas are large sawtimber size and average 85 to 90 years old.

Several characteristics make this an excellent tract for river corridor protection: the gorge-like topography, scenic quality, and the presence of large, mature trees which overhang the creek.

Anvil Cave, which is recognized as a significant geologic feature by the National Natural Landmark Program (administered by the National Park Service), is located on the TVA tract. The cave is the best developed and most complex maze cave in the United States and the longest maze cave in the eastern United States. There are reportedly seven entrances to the cave, with one or more located on this tract. A population of the southern cavefish (*Typhlichthys subterraneous*), which is listed as special concern in Alabama, has been reported from the cave. The cave is not suitable for developed public use because of its sensitive habitat and the danger from exploration of such a complex maze. The area downstream from the cave is geologically scenic and has an abundance of spring wildflowers. Wildlife and forest management allocations were considered to be conflicting with the river corridor and habitat protection area allocations and were dropped by the planning team. The planning team felt that, after buffers were retained adjacent to the corridor, insufficient area would remain to be managed by the programs. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 126 - (23.1 acres [9.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Corridor
  Small Wild Area

- Relevant Data:

Situated along the left (west) bank of Flint Creek, this tract runs from river mile 14.9 to river mile 15.4 and is in the river corridor protection area. Most of it is in forest cover; however, a small pasture bisects the tract in the middle, and another small pasture is situated along the property line. Mixed pine and hardwood dominate the northern portion, while bottomland hardwood occupies the southern end. These large sawtimber stands are 80 years old and have a net present value of approximately $1,900 per acre. The southern part is characterized by rocky topography with a limestone bluff and cave. English ivy has escaped from an adjacent old homesite and cascades down the bluff and around the cave. Access to this area, known locally as the English Ivy Cave route, is limited. It follows a narrow strip of TVA land that borders the creek. There is an agricultural license on the pasture that will be reconsidered when it expires because of an apparent incompatibility with the Small Wild Area allocation. As an update, the agriculture license has expired. The Wheeler Land Management Office has considered the renewal of the agricultural license. After contacting the licensee and making a field inspection, they concur with the planning team to deny the renewal of the license. Currently cattle are allowed to pasture and access Flint Creek by crossing TVA land. This type of activity is not compatible with a designated Small Wild Area. TVA will allow the licensee a grace period to make arrangements for removing the cattle from this tract. Forest and wildlife management were not allocated on this tract because the planning team felt that they would be in conflict with the river corridor protection and Small Wild Area. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 127 - (38.1 acres [15.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Corridor
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a continuation of the river corridor and runs from river mile 15.4 to river mile 16.8 on the left (west) bank of Flint Creek. Forest cover is dominated by planted loblolly pine; however, some upland and bottomland hardwood is present. The pine, which was planted by CCC in 1937, is large sawtimber size and has a net present value that is approaching $2,600 per acre. Although capability for pine plantation management is excellent, the planning team felt that timber operations would be in conflict with river corridor protection. Wildlife management was dropped for similar reasons. During field reviews along this portion of Flint Creek, TVA staff observed wood ducks with a recent brood. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 128 - (8.6 acres [3.5 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Access
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located along the left (west) bank of Flint Creek at river mile 16.9. It is located about 4 1/2 miles (7 km.) upstream from an access site at the confluence of Flint and West Flint Creeks and is adjacent to a county road. The topography is such that access and adequate parking can be developed. Other considerations for access sites are stream current speed, water depth, and instream obstacles, such as downed trees, sand bars, and rocks. Pole and sawtimber-size pine and bottomland hardwood mixtures characterize the forest cover in this area. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Based on favorable capability and suitability characteristics, Recreation gave this tract a high priority for a river access site on this tract which will complement the existing Alabama Game and Fish access at river mile 12.4 and the proposed access at river mile 20.0. The moderate distance between sites will benefit people who float and fish Flint Creek. The system of accesses proposed will provide more effective access than the single access currently available.

Tract No. 129 - (41.5 acres [16.8 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Corridor
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a continuation of the river corridor protection area and is situated along the right bank of Flint Creek from river mile 15.9 to river mile 16.9. Large sawtimber, planted loblolly pine, dominates the forest cover, and the net present value is approaching $2,000 per acre. Scattered hardwood stands, seasonally flooded timber, and scrub shrub wetlands are also present. Although this represents a good opportunity for forest management, the allocation was dropped by the planning team because of conflicts with the river corridor allocation.

The rock bluffs along the river bank of this tract are very important to the scenic beauty of this section of Flint Creek. Because these bluffs are located in the bend of the river, they also provide a landmark to both upstream and downstream travelers on the river. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 130 - (285.5 acres [115.5 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Corridor
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

Situated along both sides of Flint Creek from river mile 17 to river mile 20 and along both sides of No Business Creek up to river mile 0.2, this tract is part of the river corridor protection area. Hardwoods make up more than half of the forest resource, with upland species dominant on the slopes and drier sites and bottomland species on the bottoms. Also present are scattered, mixed pine-hardwood and pure pine stands. Most of the forest cover is sawtimber size and forest soil productivity is medium. Because of the diverse forest types and the natural flooding regime, capability for wildlife management is excellent. Native and wintering waterfowl are prominent in the flooded areas, and wetland furbearers are found in the riparian habitats. White-tailed deer and gray squirrel are also present in good numbers.

Wildlife and forest management were also dropped from this tract because of conflicts with the river corridor. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 131 - (172.0 acres [69.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract includes both sides of No Business Creek and several small islands from river mile 0.2 upstream. Several forest situations are present; about half is bottomland hardwood located along the creek bottom, and the remainder is pine-hardwood, upland hardwood, and loblolly pine (both planted and naturally occurring). Most of the forest cover is large sawtimber size and averages about 65 years old. The net present value for the existing forest cover is approximately $1,400 per acre. Forest soil productivity ranges from medium to high, with the bottoms generally being the more productive sites. Both multiple-use and pine plantation management are rated excellent in capability on this tract.

The bottomland hardwood on this tract is important to many different types of wildlife. Periodic flooding in the lowland areas provides excellent nesting and brood rearing habitat for wood ducks, and wintering waterfowl use these areas for foraging mast. Wetland species, such as beaver, mink, muskrat, and raccoon, are also plentiful along this floodprone tract, as are white-tailed deer and gray squirrel. Scattered stands of loblolly pine and upland hardwood provide habitat diversity, which is very important to wildlife species. Much big and small game hunting occurs here. The capability for wildlife management is excellent on this tract. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 132 - (8.8 acres [3.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Access
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract, located on the left (west) bank of Flint Creek, is just below the Woodall Bridge (Highway 36), west of Hartselle at river mile 20. The accessible location and the suitable topography make this an excellent point for a river access site. The river facilities proposed for this tract would provide access for the southern reach of the Flint Creek scenic river corridor. This river access point would be located approximately 3 miles (4.8 km.) upstream from another planned access area located at river mile 16.9. Pine and pine-hardwood mixtures dominate the site and average about 40 to 45 years old.

Forest management was dropped because it is not compatible with the allocated use. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 133 - (169.3 acres [68.5 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Corridor
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract includes both sides of Flint Creek upstream from Woodall Bridge (river mile 20.1) to the TVA property line (river mile 20.9) and along Crowdabout Creek. A diversity of forest types is present; however, bottomland hardwood, which occupies the richer sites along the creek bottom, comprises the largest segment. The upper slopes are characterized by upland hardwood, upland hardwood-pine mixtures, and scattered pure pine stands. Forest soil productivity ranges from high on the bottoms to medium on the slopes. The forest age structure varies from large mature trees that range from 60 to 100 years old to younger trees of pole size. Forest capability for both pine plantation and multiple-use management is good. Wintering waterfowl use this floodprone area for foraging, while other species, such as wood ducks, nest and raise their broods along the creek. The natural flooding regime and bottomland hardwood provide excellent wetland wildlife habitat for species such as beaver, muskrat, mink, and raccoon. Good populations of gray squirrel and white-tailed deer are also present on the tract. The diversity of forest types and associated wildlife species and the remoteness of the tract make this area highly suitable for river corridor protection. Cultural resources protection is also a concern on this tract. Both forest and wildlife management were dropped from this tract because of conflicts with the proposed river corridor. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 134 - (16.9 acres [6.8 ha.])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for surplus and disposal

- Relevant Data:

This tract was one of a dozen tracts returned to TVA from FWS in 1975, (Wheeler Refuge, Contract No. TV-19470A, Supplement No. 2). Located on the east side of Rock House Road in South Limestone County, the tract is in forest cover dominated by loblolly pine. Scattered pockets of hardwood are also present and are generally restricted to the drains. There are two natural drainage systems which cross the tract. Both drains enter Beaverdam Creek through culverts under Rock House Road. Portions of the tract are within the 100-year flood elevation and are flood prone during extreme high water from Wheeler Reservoir at Beaverdam Creek.

Four houses and a mobile home are located just behind TVA's eastern backlying property line. Some of the adjacent property owners have multiple driveways over the tract, seven total. There is also a portion of an out building and a steel grease rack on the track. None of the private drives or improvements have been permitted by TVA. However, during the review of the draft plan, information was provided by property owners to the planning team. A letter from the chairman of TVA discussed plans for providing adequate public road access across government lands. The request was made in 1975 but not implemented. The Wheeler planning team and land management team have met "on site" with the abutting property owners to discuss TVA objectives and to resolve adjacent property owners concerns generally related to securing permanent road access to their respective homes.

During the land allocation process, no TVA program requested the tract. However, TVA has contacted the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. The FWS is considering accepting this tract because of its location to the refuge and the existing timber and drainage attributes. However, if the FWS does not accept the transfer, TVA recommends the entire tract be allocated as a candidate for surplus and disposal to be sold at public auction under Section 31 of the TVA Act. TVA may consider sharing the cost for relocating one driveway which bisects the tract. The new location will parallel the eastern property line near an existing power line right-of-way. The line serves a house and mobile home located behind the southeastern corner of the tract. All property owners located behind TVA's eastern boundary will be asked to remove any private structures currently located on TVA land.

Prior to sale, arrangements will be made to offer each resident a permanent easement for a single road access to each dwelling. No multiple access will be considered on TVA land. The balance of the tract will be offered through public auction at fair market value. The abutting property owner will have equal opportunity to purchase land fronting their private property.

Tract No. 135 - (15.8) acres [6.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Recommended as a candidate for surplus and disposal
- Relevant Data:

This tract was one of a dozen tracts returned to TVA from FWS in 1975, (Wheeler Refuge, Contract No. TV-19470A, Supplement No. 2). Located on the east side of Rock House Road in South Limestone County, this tract is bisected into two parcels by Towe Road. The northern parcel is covered with small mixed pine and hardwood timber. The eastern boundary of this parcel abuts private property currently in agricultural use. Presently there are no homes immediately adjacent to the TVA property boundary of the northern parcel. The parcel located to the south of Towe Road and east of Rock House Road is currently occupied by five private driveways. Approximately 95 percent of the tract is outside the 100-year flood plain. About 50 percent of this parcel is covered with pole size pine and medium size hardwood trees. Half of this parcel is currently used as extended front yards by the four backlying property owners located behind TVA's eastern and southern property boundry. Some of the adjacent property owners have multiple driveways over the tract. None of the private drives have been permitted by TVA.

However, during the review of the draft plan, information was provided by property owners to the planning team. A letter from the chairman of TVA discussed plans for providing adequate public road access across government lands. The request was made in 1975 but not implemented.

The Wheeler planning team and land management team have met "on site" with the abutting property owners to discuss TVA objectives and to resolve adjacent property owners concerns generally related to securing permanent road access to their respective homes. During the land allocation process, no TVA program requested the tract.

TVA has contacted the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge to see if the FWS would be interested in a reconveyance of this tract for wildlife purposes. TVA staff acknowledged that the FWS was not interested in the tract as part of the refuge. The planning team recommends the entire tract (both parcels) be allocated as a candidate for surplus and disposal to be sold at fair market value through public auction under Section 31 of the TVA Act.

Prior to sale, arrangements will be made to offer each resident a permanent easement for a single road access to each dwelling. No multiple access will be considered on TVA land. The abutting property owner will have equal opportunity to purchase land fronting their private property.

Tract No. 136 - (4.1 acres [1.7 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for surplus and disposal
- Relevant Data:

The tract is isolated from the reservoir and is adjacent to a cotton field at the southern end. The southern portion is covered with scrub hardwood and pole-size pine. The entire eastern boundary fronts Bear Creek Road north of Triana, Alabama. The tract was transferred back to TVA from FWS, Wheeler Refuge in 1975 when their boundary policy changed to reflect physical barriers, such as roads. This tract's capability and suitability was rated poor, and it ranked low for requested land need. TVA comments stated that limited public benefit would be realized from continued management of the resources located on the tract. The planning team recommends TVA surplus and sell the tract through TVA Section 31 sale for residential development.

Tract No. 137 - (3.1 acres [1.3 ha])

- Planned Use: Public Recreation
- Relevant Data:

This small tract is bordered on two sides (north and east) by the city park of Triana, Alabama. The western side is bordered by a city street, providing good public access. It is physically an inset parcel to the existing park. A wooden frame house located on the tract was formerly used by the county as a community health treatment facility. Because of the location of the tract, the city of Triana has requested it as an expansion to the existing park property. The tract is not directly adjacent to the lake but overlooks the confluence of Indian Creek and the Tennessee River. It is outside the 100-year flood elevation, exhibiting a minimal flood potential. The tract is mostly open with a few scattered pine and hardwood trees. Below the tract and adjacent to the lake is a state boat ramp and parking facility. Locally, this area is a popular bank fishing spot; however, in 1990 some species of fish were found to have excessive levels of DDT, PCB, and chloridane and thus should not be eaten. For this reason, the state has identified the Indian Creek embayment as a precautionary advisory area for fish consumption. The Wheeler planning team recommends the tract be made available to the city for public recreation.

Tract No. 138 - (3.1 acres [1.3 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for surplus and disposal
- Relevant Data:

This tract is composed of two TVA parcels located on the south side of Sharps Ford Road, just west of Sharps Ford Bridge, the bridge crossing Cotaco Creek. Both parcels represent remnants of land transferred back to TVA from FWS, Wheeler Refuge. Adjacent land use is for agricultural (row crop). Currently the tracts support scrub/shrub forest cover and some grass located along the county road right-of-way. This tract's capability and suitability was rated poor, and it ranked low for requested land need. TVA comments stated that limited public benefit would be realized from continued management of the resources located on the tract. The planning team recommends TVA surplus and sell the tract through TVA Section 31 sale for agricultural use.

Tract No. 139 - (1.1 acres [.45 ha])

- Planned Use: Recommended as a candidate for surplus and disposal
- Relevant Data:

The tract is isolated from the reservoir. It is located northeast of the Grindle Hole (Cotaco Creek) and Sharps Fords Bridge. The tract is on the south side of the road and is covered in young pine. This tract's capability and suitability was rated poor, and ranked low for requested land need. TVA comments stated that limited public benefit would be realized from continued management of the resources located on the tract. The planning team recommends TVA surplus and sell the tract through TVA Section 31 sale for residential development.

Tract No. 140 - (599.4 acres [242.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management

- Relevant Data:

This large tract includes both sides of Cotaco Creek from Sharps Ford Bridge (river mile 1.9) upstream to river mile 5.8 but does not include the islands. A diversity of forest types and age classes characterize this tract; bottomland hardwood (cherrybark and water oak, sweetgum, and hickory) dominates over one-half of the area and is located along the creek, where highly productive soils prevail. Upland hardwood and loblolly pine are found in pure and mixed stands on the upper slopes and ridges where soils are medium in productivity. Over 50 acres (20.2 ha) of planted loblolly pine still remain on the tract, although extensive southern pine beetle infestations have necessitated salvage harvest operations in recent years. The net present value for hardwood exceeds $1,600 per acre, while the loblolly pine is in excess of $2,000 per acre. Suitability is high for forest management activities because of the large tract size, availability of markets, and operable topography. Implementation of BMPs will ensure that water quality is addressed during any forestry operations.

Several factors provide for an abundance of wildlife habitat on this tract: diverse topography and forest cover, desirable flooding regime, and the remoteness of the area. Wheeler Refuge lies immediately downstream and, although hunting is permissible on TVA lands, the tract provides additional wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl.

Wood ducks use the riparian zones for nesting and brood rearing, while such wintering waterfowl as mallards and black ducks use substantial quantities of oak mast as a food source. Flooded bottoms also provide habitat for wetland furbearer species such as beaver, mink, muskrat, and raccoon. Good populations of gray squirrels and white-tailed deer also are found on this tract. Much big and small game hunting occurs here, including waterfowl hunting. Another important function of the tract is that of serving as a buffer between Cotaco Creek and the adjacent private land. There are both scrub shrub and emergent wetlands on this tract, and a mud cave is located southeast of Sharps Ford Bridge. River corridor protection was dropped from this tract because it is not compatible with forest and wildlife management objectives, and the planning team felt that the Flint Creek corridor was more capable for such use. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 141 - (92.4 acres [37.4 ha]

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract includes the large and small islands just upstream from Sharps Ford Bridge. This portion of Cotaco Creek, locally known as the Grindle Hole, lies immediately south of the Wheeler Refuge. Two forest situations predominate: bottomland hardwood and planted loblolly pine. Sawtimber pine is situated on the eastern one-third of the large island, while hickory and sweetgum dominate the remainder of the tract. Capability for wildlife management is excellent; these islands provide exceptional wood duck nesting and brood rearing habitat, as well as excellent wetland wildlife habitat that supports such species as beaver, mink, muskrat, and raccoon in good numbers. Wintering waterfowl, such as black ducks and mallards, also use this area for a source of oak mast. Much big and small game hunting occurs here. Because of limitations imposed by island situations, such as access and visual sensitivity, implementation of active management activities is limited. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 142 - (59.9 acres [24.2 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Access
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on both sides of Cotaco Creek upstream (river mile 6.4) and downstream (river mile 5.8) of Grantland Bridge. Cotaco Creek is a moderate-sized, lowland stream that meanders through bottomland hardwood and pine forests and has the potential to provide recreational opportunities for canoeing, fishing, and hunting. A boat access on the tract, located approximately 4 1/2 miles (7.2 km.) upstream of the Wheeler Refuge boat ramp at Sharps Ford Bridge, would provide boaters a scenic float with two access points. The best location for the ramp is on the downstream side of the bridge, where the topography is more suitable for this type of development. Construction of such a facility could be done in a manner which would maintain the visual integrity of the area. Grantland Bridge is a riveted steel lattice truss bridge with a wood deck; this type of bridge is becoming rare and current road improvement projects could jeopardize this structure, which should be preserved as a cultural resource. It is recommended that any new bridges designed to replace Grantland Bridge should be relocated upstream or downstream, leaving the old bridge intact for pedestrian use. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 143 - (46.3 acres [18.8 ha])

- Planned Uses: Small Wild Area
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

The right (east) bank of Cotaco Creek from river mile 6.4 to the Lower River Road Bridge (river mile 7.1) makes up this tract. Mature, large sawtimber upland hardwood that exceeds 100 years old dominates the area, with white, scarlet, and black oak and hickory prevailing on the drier, upper slopes and yellow-poplar and northern red oak on the rich coves and north-facing slopes. A 30-year-old loblolly pine plantation is situated on the southern portion of the tract and totals about 13 acres (5.3 ha).

Forest soil productivity averages medium, and the net present value exceeds $1,600 per acre. Capability is excellent for both forestry categories; however, suitability rates medium because of poor access. Exposed limestone shelves and possibly a cave entrance are prominent geological features. A diversity of wildflowers, including wild geranium, wood betony, trillium, false solomon's seal, and pipsissewa enhances the natural beauty of this area. An informal trail meanders along the creek and provides access for fishermen. Significant cultural resources will be protected. Because of the natural beauty of this tract, it is allocated for a Small Wild Area. Forest and wildlife management were not allocated on this tract because of conflicts with the Small Wild Area allocation. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 144 - (0.8 acre [.32 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

Several small islands in Cotaco Creek (river mile 6.7) are included in this tract. They are too small for any type of development but will provide wildlife habitat and visual protection. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 145 - (39.5 acres [16 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the left (west) side of Cotaco Creek from river mile 6.4 to the Lower River Road Bridge (river mile 7.1). Several forest conditions are present: large, sawtimber upland hardwood, various size bottomland hardwood, and sawtimber-size loblolly pine of natural origin. A portion of this tract suffered storm damage in recent years, and timber stand improvement was conducted to remove damaged trees. The older pine needs to be thinned to reduce the susceptibility to southern pine beetles. Soil productivity rates high on most of the tract, and the net present value ranges from $2,250 per acre for the older pine to $900 per acre for the hardwood. Forestry Tract No. 145 operations on this tract will adhere to BMPs and streamside management zones to protect water quality and retain aesthetic buffers in accordance with visual management guidelines.

This tract serves as a creek buffer from backlying private property and adjacent land uses. In addition, the forest diversity in types and age classes provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Wood ducks use the area for nesting and brood rearing, while migratory waterfowl forage acorns during the winter months. Wetland furbearers, such as mink, muskrat, beaver, and raccoon, also occur in good numbers in the wetland areas. Gray squirrels and white-tailed deer also have stable populations. It currently receives a moderate amount of big game hunting as well as a moderate-to-high amount of small game hunting, mostly raccoon and squirrel. River corridor protection was dropped because the planning team felt that Flint Creek was better suited for that use, and this tract was only rated medium in land needs. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 146 - (187.7 acres [76 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This narrow, but relatively large, tract is located along the west bank of Cotaco Creek, and its northern boundary is Lower River Road. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestry. Approximately 20 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, while some 40 percent has soils that are considered highly erodible. About 50 percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation. The tract is dominated by forested wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and some stands of mature loblolly pine.

There are some relatively insignificant historic structures on adjacent private land. Wildlife habitats, including riparian zones, are good to excellent for a variety of species, including wood ducks and other waterfowl, wading birds, and wetland furbearers; and forest management opportunities are exceptional, particularly within the higher quality, mature hardwood and pine stands. It currently receives a moderate amount of big game hunting as well as a moderate-to-high amount of small game hunting, mostly raccoon and squirrel. During tract allocation deliberations, river corridor (recreation) allocation was not compatible with forest management activities, and TVA's Recreation had established a medium land need for this tract. Forest management and harvest planning strategies will include BMPS and provisions for wildlife habitat enhancement, aesthetic buffers within the streamside management zone.

Tract No. 147 - (5.7 acres [2.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

These two small disjunct tracts are located along the west side of Town Creek, which flows into Cotaco Creek on its west bank. They were formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestry. Over 80 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland and about 5 percent of the soils are highly erodible. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. The tract is dominated by forested wetlands and bottomland hardwoods. Wildlife habitats, including riparian zones, are good-to-excellent for a variety of species, including wood ducks and other waterfowl, wading birds, and wetland furbearers. It currently receives a moderate amount of big game hunting as well as a moderate-to-high amount of small game hunting, mostly raccoon and squirrel. During tract allocation deliberations, allocation of the tract for agricultural-related uses was not considered feasible because of

its small size and limited accessibility. Wildlife management enhancement planning strategies will include provisions for aesthetic buffers within the streamside management zone and BMPs.

Tract No. 148 - (5.4 acres [2.2 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of four small islands within Cotaco Creek. They are part of a former Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestry. Approximately 5 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible, and none meet prime farmland criteria. These islands lie below the 100-year flood elevation and are classified as forested wetlands. Habitat is considered excellent for a variety of wetland wildlife species, including wood ducks, wading birds, and wetland furbearers. During tract allocation deliberations, river corridor (recreation) allocation was not considered necessary or appropriate because the visual quality would be protected through a visual protection allocation. If implemented, any wildlife management enhancement planning strategies will include BMPs and provisions for aesthetic buffer within the streamside management zone.

Tract No. 149 - (233.0 acres [94.3 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This narrow, but relatively large, tract is located along the east bank of Cotaco Creek. It is bordered on the north by Lower River Road and on the south by Highway 36. The majority of the tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily residential, agriculture, and forestry. Approximately 30 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, while some 70 percent has soils that are considered highly erodible. About 50 percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation. The tract is dominated by forested wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and some stands of mature loblolly pine. Wildlife habitats, including riparian zones, are good-to-excellent for a variety of species, including wood ducks and other waterfowl, wading birds, and wetland furbearers; and forest management opportunities are exceptional, particularly within the higher-quality, mature hardwood and pine stands. Much big and small game hunting occurs here. During tract allocation deliberations, river corridor (recreation) allocation was not compatible with forest management activities, and TVA's Recreation had established a medium land need for this tract. Forest management and harvest planning strategies will include BMPs and provisions for wildlife habitat enhancement and aesthetic buffers within the streamside management zone.

Tract No. 150 - (45.9 acres [18.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This shoreline tract is located along the west bank of Cotaco Creek and is bordered on the south by Highway 36. A portion of the tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily forestry. Approximately 20 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, while some 80 percent has soils that are considered highly erodible. About 40 percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation. The tract is dominated by forested wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and some stands of mature loblolly pine. Wildlife habitats, including riparian zones, are good to excellent for a variety of species, including wood ducks and other waterfowl, wading birds, and wetland furbearers. Forest management opportunities are exceptional, particularly within the higher-quality mature hardwood and pine stands. Much big and small game hunting occurs here. During tract allocation deliberations, river corridor (recreation) allocation was not compatible with forest management activities, and TVA's Recreation had established a medium land need for this tract. Forest management and harvest planning strategies will include BMPs and provisions for wildlife habitat enhancement and aesthetic buffers within the streamside management zone.

Significant cultural resources are present on the tract, and appropriate coordination with TVA's Cultural Resources must be done prior to TVA's approving any significant management or development actions.

Tract No. 151 - (5.1 acres [2.1 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Access
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located along the east bank of Cotaco Creek, with its northern boundary Highway 36. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestry. Approximately 90 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, while some 5 percent has soils that are considered highly erodible. The entire tract is below the 100-year flood elevation. The tract contains some areas of forested wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and some loblolly pine. Wildlife habitats, including riparian zones, are good-to-excellent for a variety of species, including wood ducks and other waterfowl, wading birds, and wetland furbearers. During tract allocation deliberations, forest management was not considered because the tract is small in size, there were use conflicts, and TVA's Forestry

had established a low land need. River access development plans will include provisions for aesthetic buffer, use BMPs, and pose minimal impacts to wildlife. This tract receives heavy informal use. A boat ramp has been developed at river mile 11.9 on Wheeler Refuge property. The access proposed for this tract will complement the existing access and that proposed for river mile 6.0 at Grantland Bridge. The 4-to 5-mile (6-to 8-km.) distance between accesses should be convenient for people floating and perhaps fishing the creek from nonmotorized boats.

Tract No. 152 - (141.4 acres [57.2 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This narrow, but relatively large, tract is located along the west bank of Cotaco Creek, and its northern boundary is Highway 36. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily residential, agriculture, and forestry. Approximately 25 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and none of the soils are considered highly erodible. The entire tract is below the 100-year flood elevation. The tract is dominated by forested wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and some stands of mature loblolly pine. Wildlife habitats, including riparian zones, are good to excellent for a variety of species, including wood ducks and other waterfowl, wading birds, and wetland furbearers, and forest management opportunities are exceptional, particularly within the higher-quality mature hardwood and pine stands. Much big and small game hunting occurs here. During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team felt that a river corridor (recreation) allocation was not compatible with forest and wildlife management objectives and, since TVA's Recreation had established only a medium land need, river corridor allocation was dropped. Forest management and harvest planning strategies will include BMPs and provisions for wildlife habitat enhancement and aesthetic buffer within the streamside management zone.

Tract No. 153 - (165.5 acres [67 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This narrow, but relatively large, tract is located along the east bank of Cotaco Creek from river mile 11.5 to 14.9. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestry. Approximately 20 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and some 20 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. About 95 percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation. There is a large, two-story, early nineteenth-century house adjacent to this tract, which has been recently restored and is eligible for National Register status. It once served as the Cotaco County Courthouse before the county seat was moved to Somerville. Other surrounding structures include early twentieth-century farmhouses.

The tract is dominated by forested wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and some stands of mature loblolly pine. Wildlife habitats, including riparian zones, are good to excellent for a variety of species, including wood ducks and other waterfowl, wading birds, and wetland furbearers, and forest management opportunities are exceptional, particularly within the higher-quality mature hardwood and pine stands. Much big and small game hunting occurs here. During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team felt that a river corridor (recreation) allocation was not compatible with forest and wildlife management objectives and, since TVA's Recreation had established only a medium land need, river corridor was dropped. Forest management and harvest planning strategies will include BMPs and provisions for wildlife habitat enhancement and aesthetic buffer within the streamside management zone.

Tract No. 154 - (12.5 acres [5 ha])

- Planned Uses: Informal Recreation
  Visual Protection
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir (Tennessee River mile 325.3) and is locally known as Lewis Bluff. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestry. Approximately 35 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, while some 65 percent has soils that are considered highly erodible. Only about 10 percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation. The tract is composed of fractured limestone

boulders, is typically dry, and contains some areas of cedar-hardwood forest with a diverse shrub and ground plant understory. Wildlife habitats support a variety of small game and nongame species, including birds and reptiles. Lewis Bluff has good access from a county road, and a dirt parking area is available for informal recreational users. A trail leads from the parking area to a medium high bluff that provides a long view of the reservoir.

During tract allocation deliberations, forest management was not considered because of use conflicts and because TVA's Forestry had established a low land need. Recreation (lake access) was not considered because there is a more suitable site just upstream on the same bank. Small wild area allocation (i.e., natural area) was not considered because it had been identified for the tract as a medium land need. Natural areas concerns will be somewhat accommodated by the visual protection allocation. Any significant recreation development plans will include provisions for aesthetic buffers, BMPs, and minimal impacts to natural features and cultural resources.

Tract No. 155 - (12.7 acres [5.1 ha]) - No Longer Plan Land—Marginal Strip

- Planned Use: Not plan land, tract below elevation 560
- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir (Tennessee River mile 326.3) and is completely surrounded by private property. It is a remnant of fee-owned land thought to be plan land because TVA assigned a retained tract number (XWR-504R) to it. However, a review of the land records revealed the backlying property had been sold by TVA to the 560-foot (170.7-m.) contour. Furthermore, the abutting property owners have deeded rights of ingress and egress across the tract and hold an active agricultural license for use of this TVA land. Adjacent land use/land cover is primarily agriculture and forest conditions. The entire tract is classified as prime farmland and lies below the 100-year flood elevation. It is presently under an active agricultural license. The moist soil conditions located in this depression are suitable for farmed wetlands, providing attractive waterfowl habitat. A small water-retention structure has been constructed on private property west of the TVA tract. It is used by adjacent landowners to control seasonal water conditions on the tract. Much of the surrounding private property supports substantial hunting activities, primarily from a local private hunting club. Current use of agency land appears to be for cultivation of row crops and for providing wildlife habitat to support hunting activities not available to the general public.

Tract No. 156 (3.8 acres [1.5 ha])

- Planned Uses: Lake Access
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir (Tennessee River mile 327.1) and is locally known as Johnson Landing. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestry. The entire tract is classified as prime farmland and lies below the 100-year flood elevation. Some forested wetlands occur, and an informal (dirt) boat launching ramp is located at the site. TVA retained a 50-foot (15.2-m.) right-of-way for access purposes across a sold tract (XWR-313) currently maintained by Morgan County. There are significant cultural resources on this tract, as well as on adjacent lands.

Tract No. 157 (1.1 acres [.45 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is an island within a slough at the confluence of Smoot Branch and Wheeler Reservoir. The small tract is located along the left descending bank at Tennessee River mile 327.1 near Johnson Landing. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestry.

The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation, and none is classified as prime farmland. It has no land access and is classified as a forested wetland. An informal (dirt) boat launching ramp is also located at the site. Wetland wildlife habitat is considered fair to good.

Tract No. 158 - (3.6 acres [1.5 ha])

- Planned Uses: Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This small, narrow, shoreline tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir (Tennessee River mile 327.2) near Johnson Landing. Adjacent land use is primarily forestry. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. Some 80 percent of it can be classified as prime farmland, while about 20 percent consists of soils considered highly erodible. This tract is presently a first-class safety landing.

During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team did not consider a prime farmland allocation because of the small size of the tract and its narrow shape along the shoreline.

Tract No. 159 - (119.0 acres [48.2 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This relatively large tract is located on the left descending bank of the Tennessee River at mile 328.2 and along the west bank of Dry Creek. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestry. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. As much as 80 percent of the eastern portion of the tract can be classified as prime farmland, while some 5 percent of the soils on the entire tract are considered highly erodible. Forested and scrub/shrub wetlands occur in addition to ecologically diverse wildlife habitats that support a variety of game and nongame species. Much big and small game hunting occurs here. Bottomland hardwood is the dominant forest condition and includes 20-year-old sweetgum, ash, and willow oak and 40-year-old ash, hickory, red oak, and sweetgum. A 30-year-old loblolly pine plantation occupies over one-third of the tract and represents the most valuable forest condition with a net present value of over $1,300 per acre. There are also potentially significant cultural resources sites on and adjacent to this tract.

Although portions of the tract are not visible from the reservoir, during tract allocation deliberations the planning team deemed that a visual management allocation was appropriate for the entire tract.

Tract No. 160 - (4.0 acres [1.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of two small islands within Dry Creek and is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir at Tennessee River mile 328.2. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Adjacent land use is primarily forestry. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. As much as 90 percent of the westernmost island is classified as prime farmland, and none of the soils on the entire tract are considered highly erodible. Forested wetlands occurring on both islands support a variety of wetland wildlife, including game and nongame species.

Tract No. 161 - (362.4 acres [146.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Pine Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This relatively large tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir and extends from Tennessee River mile 329.6 to river mile 330.6, east of Dry Creek. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestry. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. As much as 70 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, while less than 5 percent of soils on the entire tract is considered highly erodible. Forested and scrub/shrub wetlands occur in addition to ecologically diverse wildlife habitats that support a variety of wetland wildlife, including game and nongame species. It currently receives a moderate amount of big game hunting as well as a moderate-to-high amount of small game hunting, mostly raccoon and squirrel. Forest conditions on this tract vary with topography: the low areas, located generally in the interior, are very wet and swampy and are occupied by tupelogum, willow, and buttonball bush; the remainder of the tract is slightly higher in elevation and was once in pasture or other agricultural use. These drier areas have either reverted over time to bottomland hardwood (ash, sweetgum, hackberry, red maple, and oaks) or were planted with loblolly pine in the early 1960s. These stands offer forest and wildlife management opportunities. There are also potentially significant cultural resources sites on the tract.

Tract No. 162 - (29.7 acres [12 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This long, narrow, shoreline tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir and extends from Tennessee River mile 330.7 to river mile 332.2. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation and is classified as prime farmland. Soils are not considered highly erodible. Upland wildlife habitat is considered fair for a variety of small game and nongame species. There are also potentially significant cultural resources sites on this tract.

During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team did not consider a forest management allocation because of the small size of the tract and its narrow shape along the shoreline. Any proposed agricultural uses would require coordination with TVA's Cultural Resources to ensure protection of potentially significant cultural resources.

Tract No. 163 - (20.0 acres [8.1 ha])

- Planned Uses: Minor Commercial Landing
  Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This long, narrow, shoreline tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir and extends from Tennessee River mile 332.2 to river mile 333.2, just west of Whitesburg Bridge (Heart of Dixie Highway 231/53). A portion of this tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. An area on the east end of the tract is an allocated navigation safety landing. Although it was once licensed for agricultural use purposes, there are no active licenses. Adjacent land use is primarily agriculture. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. The entire tract also is classified as prime farmland, and none of its soils are considered highly erodible. Upland wildlife habitat is considered fair for a variety of small game and nongame species. There are also potentially significant cultural resources on this tract. Use of the tract for development purposes would possibly require additional field surveys. Such surveys and any resultant mitigation costs would be the responsibility of the developer.

During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team did not consider a forest management allocation because of the small size of the tract and its narrow shape along the shoreline. Any proposed agricultural or development related uses would require coordination with TVA's Cultural Resources to ensure protection of any significant cultural resources.

Tract No. 164 - (73.3 acres [29.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Informal Recreation
  Forest Pine Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This relatively large tract is located along the right descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir and extends from Tennessee River mile 332.2 to river mile 333.2, just west of Whitesburg Bridge (Heart of Dixie Highway 231/53). This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land uses include industry, agriculture, and forestry. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. As much as 80 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and none of its soils are considered highly erodible. Forested and scrub/shrub wetlands occur in addition to ecologically diverse wildlife habitats that support a variety of wetland wildlife, including game and nongame species. It currently receives a moderate amount of big game hunting, as well as a moderate to high amount of small game hunting, mostly raccoon and squirrel.

Most of the tract is occupied by bottomland hardwood; however, a loblolly pine plantation that was established in the early 1960s is also present. The pine has a net present value that exceeds $2,100 per acre and represents a significant forestry investment. There are also potentially significant cultural resources on and adjacent to this tract.

During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team did not consider a historical allocation because TVA's Cultural Resources had identified it as a low land need. Commercial recreation was not considered because of conflicts with sensitive cultural resources, poor public access, and because TVA Recreation had identified it as a low land need. A prime farmland allocation was not considered because of potential conflicts with cultural resources. Any proposed development would require coordination with TVA's Cultural Resources to ensure protection of significant archaeological resources.

Tract No. 165 - (8.5 acres [3.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This long, narrow shoreline tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir and extends from Tennessee River mile 333.4 to river mile 334.6, just east of Whitesburg Bridge (Heart of Dixie Highway 231/53). This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land uses include agriculture and forestry. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. About 30 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and none of its soils are considered highly erodible. Forested and aquatic bed wetlands occur and support a variety of wetland wildlife, including game and nongame species.

The Tennessee River from river mile 333.4 to river mile 336.5 (Whitesburg Bridge to the southern, upstream tip of Hobbs Island) is a designated mussel sanctuary. The entire tract fronts a river reach that provides habitat for the pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*) which is listed federally as endangered and as of special concern by the state of Alabama. There are also significant cultural resources on this tract. There is a domestic water intake along the left bank at Tennessee River mile 334.6. During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team did not consider a navigation allocation because of potential conflicts with the mussel sanctuary.

Tract No. 166 - (9.3 acres [3.8 ha])

- Planned Uses: Minor Commercial Landing
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This long, narrow, shoreline tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir and extends from Tennessee River mile 334.6 to river mile 335.7, on the opposite shoreline from Hobbs Island. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land uses include residential, agriculture, and forestry. Approximately 80 percent of the tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. About 50 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and some 50 percent of its soils are considered highly erodible. It currently receives a moderate amount of big game hunting as well as a moderate-to-high amount of small game hunting, mostly raccoon and squirrel.

The Tennessee River from river mile 333.4 to river mile 336.5 (Whitesburg Bridge to the southern, upstream tip of Hobbs Island) is a designated mussel sanctuary. The entire tract fronts a river reach that provides habitat for the pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), which is listed federally as endangered and as of special concern by the state of Alabama. There are also significant cultural resources on and adjacent to this tract.

Tract No. 167 - (26.8 acres [10.0 ha])

- Planned Use: Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This long, narrow, shoreline tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir and extends from Tennessee River mile 335.7 to river mile 336.5, on the opposite shoreline from Hobbs Island. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land uses include residential, agriculture, and forestry. Approximately 80 percent of the tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. As much as 50 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and some 50 percent of its soils are considered highly erodible. The Tennessee River from river mile 333.4 to river mile 336.5 (Whitesburg Bridge to the southern, upstream tip of Hobbs Island) is a designated mussel sanctuary. The entire tract fronts a river reach that provides habitat for the pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), which is listed federally as endangered and as of special concern by the state of Alabama. There is also a historical structure and potentially significant archaeological sites (status unknown) on and adjacent to this tract. This tract contains one sensitive geologic feature, Coffee Bluff. Another two, Rocky Ridge and Camp Caves, occur on adjacent private lands.

During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team did not consider a historical allocation because the visual protection allocation would preserve the visual integrity of the area, and the historic structure is not located on this tract. The planning team did not consider an archaeological allocation because there are no significant sites on this portion of the tract. The planning team did not consider a navigation allocation because of potential conflicts with visual/aesthetic concerns and because the adjoining tract was considered a better alternative from a suitability perspective.

Tract No. 168 - (58.4 acres [23.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the right descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir northeast of Hobbs Island and north of Madison County Boat Harbor and lies just east of Hobbs Island Road and west of the CSX Railroad at Hambrick Slough. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. It currently receives a moderate amount of big game hunting as well as a moderate-to-high amount of small game hunting, mostly raccoon and squirrel. Adjacent land uses include residential, industry, agriculture, and forestry. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. As much as 90 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and some 10 percent of its soils are considered highly erodible. Road and rail access are available

nearby, and two boat launching ramps are located in the area. The interior two-thirds of the tract has bottomland hardwood cover on wetlands with red maple, sweetgum, and ash dominating. This area also has a cypress plantation that was established about 40 years ago. The outer one-third is occupied by a 30-year-old loblolly pine plantation.

The Tennessee River from river mile 333.4 to river mile 336.5 (Whitesburg Bridge to the southern, upstream tip of Hobbs Island) is a designated mussel sanctuary. The entire tract fronts a river reach that provides habitat for the pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), which is listed federally as endangered and as of special concern by the state of Alabama. There is also a historical structure and potentially significant archaeological sites (status unknown) on and adjacent to the tract. The city of Huntsville has a domestic water intake located downstream of the tract on the right bank at Tennessee River mile 334.2.

Tract No. 169 - (37.0 acres [15 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This extremely narrow tract is located along the perimeter of Hobbs Island on Wheeler Reservoir and extends from Tennessee River mile 334.1 to river mile 336.5. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land uses include agriculture and forestry. The tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. The entire tract is classified as prime farmland, and none of its soils are considered highly erodible.

The Tennessee River from river mile 333.4 to river mile 336.5 (Whitesburg Bridge to the southern, upstream tip of Hobbs Island) is a designated mussel sanctuary. The entire tract fronts a river reach that provides habitat for the pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), which is listed federally as endangered and as of special concern by the state of Alabama. There are also significant cultural resources on and adjacent to this tract. Norton Company, Inc., has an industrial water intake east of Hobbs Island along the right bank at Tennessee River mile 335.2. Norton also has an industrial wastewater discharge along the right bank, east of Hobbs Island, just below their intake at Tennessee River mile 335.2.

During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team did not consider a prime farmland allocation because of periodic flooding and because the TVA fee-owned strip is little more than a vegetated buffer that provides some erosion control.

Tract No. 170 - (6.6 acres [2.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Pine Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located along the right descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir, just east of Hobbs Island along the secondary navigation channel. It lies just west of Hobbs Island Road near the end of the CSX Railroad (tracks formerly extending to the reservoir have been removed).

This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land uses are primarily industry, agriculture, and forestry. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. The tract is classified as prime farmland; none of its soils are considered highly erodible. Road and rail access are available nearby. The tract is dominated by bottomland hardwood and planted loblolly pine forest. Both types are small sawtimber-sized and well stocked. The tract also contains forested wetlands, but because of adjacent development and the degree of regular disturbance, their associated habitat value is minimal.

The Tennessee River from river mile 333.4 to river mile 336.5 (Whitesburg Bridge to the southern, upstream tip of Hobbs Island) is a designated mussel sanctuary. The entire tract fronts a river reach that provides habitat for the pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), which is listed federally as endangered and as of special concern by the state of Alabama. There is an industrial water intake located on this tract at Tennessee River mile 335.4 (right bank).

During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team did not consider a navigation minor commercial landing allocation because the back channel is too narrow and shallow to permit commercial barge traffic. A minor commercial landing is located adjacent to this tract because of potential use from nearby industrial operations. However, if the need for a minor commercial landing were to arise, the requesting operation could utilize the abandon Alabama State Dock facility located two miles downstream from this tract.

Tract No. 171 - (47.2 acres [19.1 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This relatively large and narrow tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir and extends from Tennessee River mile 336.5 to river mile 338.1. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline

improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land uses include residential, agriculture, and forestry. Approximately 80 percent of the tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. Fifty percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and 50 percent of its soils are considered highly erodible. There are also significant cultural resources on and adjacent to the tract.

During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team did not consider a navigation allocation because of a Navigation request pertaining to another portion of the original tract.

Tract No. 172 - (45.9 acres [18.6 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Protection
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This narrow tract is located along the left descending bank of Wheeler Reservoir and extends from Tennessee River mile 338.1 to river mile 338.9. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land uses include residential, agriculture, and forestry. Approximately 80 percent of the tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation. Fifty percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and 50 percent of its soils are considered highly erodible.

There are also significant cultural resources adjacent to this tract. The tract also includes Black Bluff (unique geologic feature, aesthetically significant) and contains two plant species, smoketree (*Cotinus obovatus*) and yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*), both determined to be of special concern by the state of Alabama.

During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team did not consider a navigation allocation because of a Navigation request pertaining to another portion of the original tract. The visual protection allocation would help to ensure the integrity of historical structures not actually located on the tract but in close proximity.

Tract No. 173 - (6.8 acres [2.8 ha])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This small tract is located along the right descending bank at the mouth of the Flint River. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Adjacent land uses are primarily industrial, agriculture, and forestry. The entire tract lies below the 100-year flood elevation and is classified as prime farmland, but the soils are not considered highly erodible. There are also significant cultural resources adjacent to and on this tract. Uses of the tract may be limited to avoid possible adverse impacts on sensitive cultural resources. The reservoir and Flint River are impacted by nonpoint pollutants from surrounding lands. The combination with adjacent private agricultural lands and bottomland hardwoods on the tract provides good-to-excellent habitat for a variety of upland small game and nongame wildlife.

During tract allocation deliberations, the planning team did not consider a forest management allocation because the tract was determined to be too small from a management perspective. Historical structures were inventoried on private land across the Tennessee River, opposite the tract. Capability was ranked fair for significant structures because of the distance from the tract. A recreation allocation (lake access) was not considered because of the lack of access and because Recreation had determined the tract's capability to be only fair and identified a low land need. A wildlife management allocation was not considered because of the limited tract size.

Tract No. 174 - (16.5 acres [6.7 ha])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of a number of small islands located in the Flint River from river mile 0.4 upstream to river mile 2.1. These islands were formerly Reservoir Operations tracts under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Adjacent land uses are primarily agriculture and forestry. All islands lie below the 100-year flood elevation and are classified as prime farmland. None of the soils are considered highly erodible. The islands are also classified as forested wetlands, which provide good-to-excellent habitat for a variety of wetland wildlife, including wood ducks, wading birds, and semi-aquatic furbearers. It currently receives a moderate amount of big game hunting, as well as a moderate to high amount of small game hunting, mostly raccoon and squirrel.

Tract No. 175 - (144.3 acres [58.4 ha])

- Planned Uses: Agriculture
  Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

The tract is located along the Flint River from river mile 1 to river mile 2. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture, forestland, and some residential. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Approximately 85 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland and 15 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. Visual management along this river corridor will allow consideration for resource management and the visual integrity will be preserved through management of the tract for forestry and wildlife. This tract receives a considerable amount of small and big game hunting use. Bottomland hardwood, dominated by sawtimber-size hackberry, sweetgum, oak, and red maple, occupies this productive site. Evaluation of the natural resources for the tract show excellent capability and good suitability for forest multiple-use management. Other attributes supporting forestry activities are high-soil productivity, good access, and level topography. Ninety percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 176 - (58.7 acres [23.8 ha])

- Planned Uses: River Access
  Informal Recreation
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract begins just upstream from river mile 2 on the Flint River at the powerline crossing and goes to river mile 3. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture, forestland, and some residential. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Approximately 85 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland and 15 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. The tract is bisected by Clouds Cove Road. Informal recreation currently exists on the tract, and it is one of the few areas within the Flint River watershed where there is currently river access. Madison County has informally requested a portion of this tract for river access to complement the system of accesses they are currently developing to provide access to the 35 miles (56 km.) of the Flint River in the county. Although this tract is narrow, it currently receives informal use for river access and has excellent access to the public road system. The river in this area is beautiful and provides a diversity of aquatic habitats. Forestry potential is limited on most of this tract because of poor site quality. Ninety percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 177 - (281.2 acres [113.8 ha])

- Planned Use: Habitat Protection Area

- Relevant Data:

TVA Forestry rated this as one of the most important forest tracts on Wheeler Reservoir and throughout TVA lands. High-quality, large sawtimber, bottomland hardwood dominates the area with cherrybark and water oak, ash, and hickory the most common species. The soils are very productive and the net present value exceeds $2,000 per acre. Both capability and suitability are excellent for forest management because of the existing resource, good accessibility, excellent markets, and site potential. After much discussion, the planning team decided to allocate this tract for a habitat protection area in order to preserve a forest condition that has become less common in recent years. The tract will serve as a benchmark for bottomland hardwood forestry research. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forest system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 178 - (286.4 acres [116 ha])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

Various size bottomland hardwood, large sawtimber loblolly pine plantations, and reverting idle agricultural fields occupy the tract. In recent years, several outbreaks of the southern pine beetle have caused mortality and necessitated removal of over half of the pine. Most of the harvested areas and reverting fields are revegetating with bottomland hardwood species and some loblolly pine. Because of the highly productive soils and a net present value that exceeds $2,000 per acre, capability for forest management is excellent. This tract receives a considerable amount of small and big game hunting use. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 179 - (2.8 acres [1.3 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of two islands at river mile 4 on the Flint River. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forest system. No existing shoreline improvements

are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. It has forested wetlands and 100 percent of the islands are prime farmland. The tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract 180 - (402.5 acres [162.9 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This large tract of land is located along the Flint River between river mile 3 and Hobbs Island Road just upstream from river mile 5. The adjacent land use is primarily forestland. Over half of this stact is revering old fields that were under agricultural licenses at one time. Most of these are reverting to loblolly pine and should achieve an acceptable stocking level to be productive forest situations. With the exception of a 14-acre (5.7 ha.), large sawtimber, loblolly pine plantation on the northern portion of the tract, the remainder of the forest cover is dominated by small and large sawtimber bottomland hardwood. Capability for forest management is excellent because of the highly productive soils, large tract size, and moderately high net present value. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

One hundred percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland and none of the soils are considered highly erodible. Forest management and wildlife management practices will provide protection for visual resources. This tract receives a considerable amount of small and big game hunting use. Because of the sensitive cultural resources and conflict with forest management, the tract was not allocated for prime farmland. The tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 181 - (2.0 acres [.81 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of two small islands just upstream from river mile 5 on the Flint River. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forest system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. The tract has forested wetlands and 100 percent of the islands are prime farmland. The tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 182 - (16.3 acres [6.6 ha.])

- Planned Uses: River Access
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located just upstream from river mile 5 on the Flint River and south (downstream) of Hobbs Island Road. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestland. The western half of the tract is occupied by bottomland hardwood and the eastern portion is dominated by planted loblolly pine. Forested wetlands occur along the shoreline and the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation. A portion of this tract has been requested by Madison County for a river access point in conjunction with other accesses to be developed along 35 miles (56 km.) of the Flint River in the county. The Madison County proposal is for a small access area with parking for five to ten cars.

Public road access to the tract is excellent. Sufficient area is available within this tract, should expansion/improvements of the facilities be desirable in the future. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forest system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Tract No. 183 - (38.6 acres [15.6 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Public Recreation
  Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located just upstream from Hobbs Island Road on the Flint River. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestland. The southwestern third of this tract is a former loblolly pine stand that was harvested to salvage southern pine beetle damage. This area is now revegetating in bottomland hardwood and scattered pine. The northeastern two-thirds is composed of large sawtimber bottomland hardwood dominated by ash, hackberry, and oak. This part appears to be an old field that reverted about 50 years ago. A net present value that approaches $1,300 per acre and highly productive soils warrant an excellent capability rating for forest management. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forest system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. The tract consists of 100 percent prime farmland and is situated below the 100-year flood elevation.

The city of Huntsville has informally requested use of this tract for a trail to access their county-wide greenway/long distance trail system. One of the first components of this system to be developed will traverse Wallace Mountain and will use Hobbs Island Road for vehicular access. Trail use can probably be accommodated along the existing road into the tract and will require some type of buffer from forest management activities. Because of Huntsville's request and the value of the existing timber, agriculture was not allocated as a use for this tract. The concensus of the planning team was that the forest cover would also protect the prime farmland from erosion during periodic flooding.

The southwest third of this tract is a former loblolly pine stand that was harvested to salvage southern pine beetle damage. This area is now revegetating in bottomland hardwood and scattered pine. The northeastern two-thirds is composed of large sawtimber bottomland hardwood dominated by ash, hackberry, and oak. This part appears to be an old field that reverted about 50 years ago. Forest management capability rates excellent because of the highly productive soils and an average net present value that approaches $1,300 per acre.

Tract No. 184 - (59.5 acres [24 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located on the right descending bank of the Tennessee River between river miles 339 and 342 just upstream from the confluence of the Flint River. There is a first-class navigation safety landing located at river mile 340.4 and is used by commercial and recreational boats during adverse weather conditions. An inactive minor commercial landing site is also upstream from the safety harbor. TVA Navigation Operations has identified the shoreline restricted for navigational concerns, requiring review and approval of any commercial requests located along this reach of the river. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestland. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forest system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. One hundred percent of the tract is considered prime farmland and none of the soils are considered highly erodible. However, the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation and is susceptible to periodic flooding. The presence of significant cultural resources on this tract has eliminated the need to consider the tract for a minor commercial landing and for agricultural land use allocations. Both of these land uses would conflict with the protection of existing cultural resources. A 3-acre agricultural license (No. 1082.1) located on the tract was cancelled and should not be considered for renewal unless coordinated and approved by TVA's Cultural Resources.

Tract No. 185 - 216.7 acres [86.7 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This large tract is located on the left descending bank of the Tennessee River between river miles 339 and 340.8 and includes the lands that are adjacent to Cave Creek. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. It currently receives a moderate amount of big game hunting, as well as a moderate-to-high amount of small game hunting, mostly raccoon and squirrel. The forest cover on about two-thirds of this tract is dominated by sawtimber-size bottomland hardwood. Species composition includes water oak, hickory, ash, and sweetgum and the net present value approaches $1,000 per acre. The remainder of this tract is occupied by a loblolly pine plantation that was established about 1960. Some pine mortality has occurred in recent years from southern pine beetle infestation.

Tract No. 186 - (0.4 acre [.16 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract consists of islands within a slough at Tennessee River mile 339. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. The area is below the 100-year flood elevation and forested wetlands are present. One hundred percent of the soils on the tract are highly erodible.

Tract No. 187 - (43.3 acres [17.5 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Cultural Resource Protection
  Habitat Protection Area

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a relatively steep, narrow strip of shoreline along the left descending bank between Tennessee River miles 341.5 and 342. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestland. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Approximately 50 percent of the tract is prime farmland and 50 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. Two species of small

trees, smoketree (*Cotinus obovatus*) and yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*), occur on this tract and are listed as special concern in Alabama. This is one of only a few sites in Alabama where these species occur on a protected area. The planning team decided to drop the visual management allocation because the habitat protection guidelines will protect the visual integrity of the tract. Sixty percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 188 - (24.9 acres [10 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a narrow strip of shoreline along the left descending bank between Tennessee river miles 342 and 343. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Approximately 95 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland and none of the soils are considered highly erodible. Close coordination with TVA's Cultural Resources is necessary to ensure the significant cultural resources sites are protected from damaging land use practices. The tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 189 - (29.0 acres [11.7 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Agriculture
  Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the right descending bank at Tennessee River mile 342. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Approximately 90 percent of tract is classified as prime farmland, and 10 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. There are forested wetlands on the tract. Forest management capability is good because of the highly productive soils that are present. Forest management potential is good for planting the open areas. The tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 190 - (23.6 acres [9.6 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Visual Protection
  Cultural Resource Protection
  Habitat Protection Area

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the right descending bank between Tennessee River miles 342 and 343, just below the confluence of the Paint Rock River. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestland. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Approximately 25 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and 10 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. Nonpoint source water pollution, associated with adjacent land activities, is a concern in the Paint Rock River and within the lake. There is a mussel sanctuary located in the river along this tract and rosinweed (*Silphium brochiatom*), a rare plant under review for federal listing, occurs on this tract. Clark Bluff was once used as a nesting site for peregrine falcons, which are a federally endangered species. There are sensitive geologic features (Still Cave and Clark Bluff Cave) on private property adjacent to the tract. Significant cultural resources are also located on this tract. Ninety-five percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 191 - (0.4 acre [.16 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a small island near river mile 4 on the Paint Rock River. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. There are forested wetlands on the tract, and 100 percent of the tract is prime farmland. The tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 192 - (49.7 acres [20.1 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the right descending bank at river mile 4 on the Paint Rock River. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestland. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be

considered. Approximately 75 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and 20 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. The tract was not allocated for agricultural use because of the forest cover presently on the tract. Large sawtimber water oak, hickory, and ash dominate the bottomland hardwood that occupies this tract. Above-average tree quality, highly productive soils, and a net present value that exceeds $950 per acre characterize the excellent capability for forest management. A license agreement is in effect for two pumping stations for an irrigation system which serves the backlying private land which is used for sod farming. The tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 193 - (111.8 acres [45.2 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Forest Multiple-Use Management
  Wildlife Management
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the left descending bank at river mile 4 on the Paint Rock River. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestland. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Approximately 70 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and 20 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. The forest resource on the tract is composed of well-stocked, high-quality oak; lower-quality sweetgum, ash, and hackberry; and abandoned agricultural fields that have reverted to bottomland hardwood and loblolly pine. Capability for forest management is excellent because of the high site productivity and net present value that averages about $1,100 per acre. Visual management was added to the planned uses to protect the visual integrity of a historic structure which is located on adjacent private property. The tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 194 - (17.6 acres [7.1 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the left descending bank at river mile 5 on the Paint Rock River just below the confluence of Little Paint Rock Creek. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestland. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Approximately 70 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and 20 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. Visual management was added to the planned uses to protect the historical integrity of an adjacent historic structure which will be protected if the tract remains in a wooded or agricultural condition. The tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 195 - (0.1 acre [.04 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Wildlife Management
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is a small island near river mile 5 on the Paint Rock River just below the confluence of Little Paint Rock Creek. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Situated below the 100-year flood elevation, most of the vegetation is forested wetlands. The soils are considered highly erodible.

Tract No. 196 - (5.7 acres [2.3 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Visual Protection
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the left descending bank between Tennessee River miles 343 and 344, just below the confluence of Pigeon Roost Creek. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture, forestland, and some residential. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. There are significant cultural resources located on the TVA tract. One feature is a nineteenth-century historical structure that is vacant but in fair condition. Approximately 50 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and 20 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. There is a water intake on the tract. The tract also contains Bean Rock Bluff, which should be visually protected. Ninety percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 197 - (29.5 acres [12 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the right descending bank of the Tennessee River between river miles 343 and 345, just above the confluence of the Paint Rock River. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestland. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered.

Approximately 80 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and 20 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. There are two agricultural licenses which were not

renewed. Water quality is a concern in this section of the reservoir because of organic enrichment and low-dissolved oxygen. The pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), listed as endangered by both the federal government and the state of Alabama, occurs in the reservoir adjacent to this tract. Significant cultural resources exist on this tract.

Merrill Cave, a sensitive geologic feature, is located adjacent to the tract on private land. Eighty-five percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 198 - (21.3 acres [8.6 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Visual Protection
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the right descending bank at Tennessee River mile 345. The adjacent land is primarily agriculture and forestland. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Approximately 80 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and 20 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. There are threatened and endangered species (mussel - *Lampsilis orviculata*) in the lake fronting the tract. There are significant cultural resources located on this tract. A geologic feature (Painted Cave) is located on this tract. Eighty-five percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 199 - (83.0 acres [33.6 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the left descending bank between Tennessee River miles 344 and 347, just above the confluence of the Pigeon Roost Creek. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestland. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. Approximately 50 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and 20 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. Several sensitive mussel species, orange-footed pimpleback (*Plethobosus cooperianus*), and pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), listed as endangered by both the federal government and the state of Alabama, and the pocketbook (*Lampsilis ovota*), listed as endangered by the state, occur in the reservoir adjacent to this tract. There are significant cultural resources sites located on and adjacent to this tract. A nineteenth-century rural farm community, formerly occupied by Cherokee Indians led by Chief Parches, is located adjacent to the tract. Significant remains of both communities are located throughout the countryside. Water quality is a concern in this section of the reservoir because of organic enrichment and low-dissolved oxygen. Ninety percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 200 - (52.7 acres [21.3 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Navigation Safety Harbor/Landing
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the right descending bank between Tennessee River miles 345 and 347. The adjacent private land use is primarily agriculture. This tract was formerly a Reservoir Operations tract under TVA's forecast system. No existing shoreline improvements are currently present, and future requests for private shoreline alterations will not be considered. A mussel sanctuary is located in the river between Tennessee River miles 347.2 to 347.3. Three sensitive mussel species, orange-footed pimpleback (*Plethobosus cooperianus*) and pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), listed as endangered by both the federal government and the state of Alabama, and the pocketbook (*Lampsilis ovota*), listed as endangered by the state, occur in the reservoir adjacent to this tract. Water quality is a concern in this section of the reservoir because of organic enrichment and low dissolved oxygen. A navigation safety landing fronting the tract at Tennessee River mile 345.3 is used for tying off commercial barges and recreational boats during adverse weather conditions or equipment malfunction. Prior to this plan, TVA's Navigation Operations had identified a site for a minor commercial landing located at Tennessee River mile 345.6. However, due to the adjacent mussel sanctuary and existing cultural resources located on the tract, the request was found to be an incompatible use.

One hundred percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and the soil interpretation is considered no highly erodible. However, the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation and is susceptible to periodic flooding. All former agricultural licenses have expired on the tract. TVA will only consider future agricultural requests if Cultural Resources staff approves the action because of potential damage to existing significant cultural resources located on the tract.

Tract No. 201 - (28.8 acres [11.7 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Visual Protection
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the left descending bank at Tennessee River mile 347 just below the confluence of Shoal Creek. The adjacent land use is primarily agriculture and forestland. Approximately 50 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland, and 20 percent of the soils are considered highly erodible. There was an agricultural license on the tract but it has been cancelled. There is a mussel sanctuary in the river between Tennessee River miles 347.2 and 347.3. Three sensitive mussel species, orange-footed pimpleback (*Plethobosus cooperianus*) and pink mucket pearly mussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), listed as endangered by both the federal government and the state of Alabama, and the pocketbook (*Lampsilis ovota*), listed as endangered by the state, occur in the reservoir adjacent to this

tract. Water quality is a concern in this section of the reservoir because of organic enrichment and low-dissolved oxygen. The tract was allocated for visual protection because of Blue Rock Bluff and Shoal Creek. Ninety percent of the tract is below the 100-year flood elevation.

Tract No. 202 - (4.9 acres [2 ha.])

- Planned Use: Informal Recreation
  Visual Management

- Relevant Data:

This tract is located along the right descending bank of Shoal Creek. The tract has poor (dirt) road access across private land. Water access is also difficult because of the shallow stream depth and vegetation growth constricting the channel at some locations. There is an existing 161 kV TVA power line right-of-way currently located on the southern portion of the tract. The northern and eastern TVA tract boundaries abuts private property currently used for agriculture. The tract is over 90 percent prime farm land. The rich bottom land soils found on the tract support large species of pine and hardwood trees. Because the tract was small, TVA found it not feasible to harvest the timber. Therefore, the timber has brown to a stately size. A grove of large American beach trees offer a scenic area popular with those seeking a primitive campsite near the water. Evidence from abandon tree stands and fire pits support the presence of hunting, fishing, and camping activity on the tract. The tracts capability and suitability for most uses was rated poor and low respectively.

Most of the rationale for low interest concerning the tract was because of its remote location and difficult access. Upon a site reevaluation, the planning team found the tract to be not capable for constructing permanent structures. At this particular location on Wheeler Reservoir, TVA's Flood Risk Reduction Section had calculated the structure profile elevation for the 100-year at 580.5 and the 500-year at 583.2.

The average elevation of the site is approximately 570. Because the tract is receiving recreational use and citizens at the public meetings suggested TVA not dispose of the tract, the team has withdrawn its recommendation as a candidate for surplus and disposal.

Tract No. 203 - (63.1 acres [25.5 ha.])

- Planned Uses: Public Recreation
  Visual Management
  Cultural Resource Protection

- Relevant Data:

Situated along the south bank of the river, this tract is about one mile (1.61 km.) below Guntersville Dam. This section of Wheeler Reservoir is more riverine and is heavily influenced by releases from Guntersville Dam. Water quality is a concern because of organic enrichment and low-dissolved oxygen. This portion of the river is included in a designated mussel sanctuary, and the mainstream river snail (*Leptoxis praerosa*), a federal candidate for category 2, is known to occur. Approximately 90 percent of the tract is classified as prime farmland but is not practicable to cultivate. The drier portions of this tract (northern half) are occupied by loblolly pine that was planted in the early 1960s. Cultural work is needed in these plantations to control privet and to lower the density (thin). A large beaver pond with few remaining live trees is situated on the southern portion of the tract and scattered pockets of bottomland hardwoods remain. There is a mussel sanctuary in the river adjacent to the tract and there is a threatened and endangered species in the river.

Guntersville Dam, just upstream from the tract, is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. There was a minor commercial landing on the tract that is no longer used. The tract is below the 100-year flood elevation. Because of regulated water releases from Guntersville Dam, there is an area within the tailwaters showing concern for organic enrichment and substandard levels of dissolved oxygen.

TVA transmission towers and island located on Tennessee River below Wheeler Dam, September 1957.

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Wheeler Plan Glossary

Plan Glossary

The plan glossary is provided to assist the reader with unfamiliar terms. Other terminologies used in the plan matrix (allocated land uses) are defined in the section entitled "Planned Land Uses," on page 127. The following glossary and list of acronyms may assist the reader with a better understanding of the terms used in both the plan and tract descriptions. The definitions are not intended to be used for detailed legal interpretation.

Agricultural Licensing

Land allocated in the plan for agricultural use will be considered for agricultural licensing, consistent with TVA's current policy relating to use of reservoir land for agriculture. Some tracts, or portions of tracts, designated for other long-term uses may also be suitable for interim agricultural licensing and have been identified, using the criteria contained in TVA's agriculture instruction. Normal tenure for a TVA agricultural license is five years. Land with extreme erosion potential may not be licensed for agricultural use unless erosion and sediment controls, including the use of BMPs, can be successfully implemented. Further investigation and/or mitigation of adverse impacts to natural or cultural resources may be required prior to approval license agreements.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Best management practices are guidelines, methods, measures, practices, or design and performance standards required to facilitate compliance with environmental quality standards.

Dam Reservation

Dam reservation lands are generally maintained in a park-like setting by TVA to protect the integrity of the dam structure, hydroelectric facilities, and navigation lock. The reservation also provides for public visitor access to the TVA dam facilities and recreation opportunities, such as public boat access, bank fishing, camping, picnicking, etc.

Dissolved Oxygen (DO)

Water in the reservoir contains oxygen, and the amount of oxygen depends on many conditions. In unpolluted water, the saturation content of dissolved oxygen depends on the temperature. Fish and other aquatic animals require DO for respiration. Generally, fish need a concentration of about five parts per million of DO, although some (such as trout) require more, and others (such as carp) require less. Most fish are very sensitive to even slight reductions in DO levels. Only the most tolerant species of fish can survive when DO concentrations drop below about three parts per million. Therefore, any wastewater discharge, spill, or natural process which causes DO to decrease to less than about three parts per million can result in fish deaths.

Extirpated

To be lost or destroyed at a specific location. The term is used in the plan relative to a particular plant or animal species being "wiped out" at a specific location, usually because of a modification or alteration of the species' natural habitat.

Floodplains

Any land area susceptible to inundation by water from any source by a flood of selected frequency. For purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the floodplain, as a minimum, is that area subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding (100-year flood) in any given year.

Flowage Rights

Flowage rights on privately owned land were acquired by TVA from the property owner to give TVA the right to flood. The flowage easement boundary normally follows a designated contour elevation. Where feasible, TVA also purchased other rights to include such things as removal of natural vegetation or other obstacles which could conflict with navigation, vector (mosquito) control, or flood management. In some locations, TVA purchased additional rights to prevent the construction of structures within the easement to avoid potential property damage or loss due to emergency flooding conditions.

Forecast System

Under the forecast system which was used in the past for planning the use of TVA reservoir lands, TVA staffs provided a record of actual and prospective uses indicated for particular properties. A forecast record book was prepared for each TVA reservoir to serve as a general guide for use or development to benefit TVA staff interests and the local or regional economy. Decisions on the best use of the property were made, using internal agency expertise. The new land use planning process will eventually replace the forecast system as the mechanism for identifying acceptable uses of TVA reservoir land. A major difference between the two methods is the involvement of the public in the planning process.

Forest Net Present Value

This is the present value of a stand of timber, based on the predicted value when harvested at its financial maturity and discounted back to the present by a predetermined discount and inflation rate. A 2-percent discount rate and a 2-percent inflation rate were used in the calculation for Wheeler Reservoir. The net present value classes at financial maturity noted in this plan are:

TABLE VII
Forest Net Present Value Classes
($ per acre)

Returned Level	Multiple-Use Forests	Pine Plantation Forests
(1) High	$1,000	$1,800
(2) Moderately High	$600-$999	$1,200-$1,799
(3) Moderately Low	$300-$599	$600-$1,199
(4) Low	$0-$299	$0- $599

All net present value figures are based on a per-acre basis.

Herbicide Treatment Areas

These areas of the reservoir shoreline have dense aquatic plant colonies that conflict with the reservoir use and are generally termed "high priority treatment areas." They are located around commercial marinas, public recreation areas, campgrounds and resorts, residences, and industrial raw water intakes and are usually associated with high mosquito production. In most cases, the areas are approximately 150 feet (45.7 m.) in width and parallel shoreline. They generally represent only a small percentage of the total aquatic plant coverage on a reservoir and are selected for treatment because they provide the greatest social and economic benefits. TVA will be phasing out of the chemical herbicide treatment business by 1998.

Interim Use

Interim use refers to the use of a tract for an unallocated use until the allocated use is implemented. It is the nonpermanent management of an existing resource—normally timber or wildlife—on a tract where, if not managed, the resource would otherwise decline, become nonproductive, or could alter the viability of adjacent resources. It is understood by the interim managing staff(s) that, in some cases, past or future investment may not be recoverable. Interim use is assigned to protect an existing resource investment until the ultimate land use for which a plan tract was allocated is implemented. Interim land use proposals are reviewed by the staff(s) who are assigned responsibility for the tract and will determine how these interim resources should be manipulated or managed.

For example, a tract supporting a merchantable pine plantation may be allocated in the lands plan for industrial site or commercial recreation. It is prudent to properly manage the timber and wildlife resources until such time as the tract is needed for development.

Aquatic Macrophyte

Any large plant which grows in water, i.e. water millfoil, one which is not microscopic such as algae.

Marginal Strip

Some of the public land along the reservoir shoreline owned by TVA is encumbered with deeded rights held by adjacent property owners. The deeded rights allow individuals to construct docks and other private water use facilities upon receipt of TVA's written approval of plans. This generally narrow strip of encumbered shoreline between the water's edge and adjoining private property is referred to as "marginal strip." It is retained, in fee, by TVA on behalf of the general public. TVA fee-owned reservoir land bordering property used for public recreation, commercial recreation, industrial uses, or TVA plan land tracts are not part of the marginal strip. To be consistent with previously approved land management plans, marginal strip is not to be included as planned land.

Neighboring landowners who own these deeded landrights may submit Section 26a applications for TVA's approval of plans for private docks, boat launching ramps, retaining walls, limited land-based recreational facilities, dredging, fills, landscaping, mowing, and certain other shoreline improvements included on TVA's list of permissible shoreline alterations.[7]

[7] TVA Land Management Team Guidelines, pages 3.1 - 3.16, June 1994.

Alterations made on the marginal strip may not be used to block access by the general public to reservoir waters or land along the TVA shoreline. Section 26a permit approvals will be based on TVA's determination that the proposed facilities or alterations are compatible with TVA's statutory obligations, environmental quality requirements, and other TVA resource management interests. TVA regulates the placement and size of structures on the shoreline to prevent navigation hazards, flood damage, and environmental impacts. At sites where numerous individual docks cannot be physically accommodated, TVA recommends the construction of community facilities.

Neighboring landowners who do not possess rights for shoreline alterations do not qualify for permits to construct water use facilities or make quasi-private use of public shoreland. Unauthorized structures placed on public land by people who do not possess the necessary deeded landrights are encroachments that must be removed.

Nonattainment Area

A nonattainment area is an area in which concentrations of a pollutant in the outside air have recently exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for that pollutant. The use of tracts within such areas may be severely limited if such use might increase the pollution level.

Open Land Management

Open land management is a strategy directed principally at benefiting wildlife species, such as bobwhite quail and cottontail rabbits, that use old-field or brushy type habitats over all or a portion of their living space or home range. The establishment and maintenance of these early successional habitats is normally accomplished by selective timber harvesting, planting field crops or wildlife food plots, controlled burning, and strip discing, or bush-hogging.

Plan Tract

A numbered parcel of TVA fee-owned land which, prior to the plan, has had no long-term commitments affecting future land uses as assigned through the reservoir lands planning process.

Prime Farmland

Generally regarded as the best land for farming, these areas are flat or gently rolling and are usually susceptible to little or no soil erosion. Prime farmland produces the most food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops with the least amount of fuel, fertilizer, and labor. It combines favorable soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply and, under careful management, can be farmed continuously and at a high level of productivity without degrading either the environment or the resource base. Prime farmland does not include land already in or committed to urban development, roads, or water storage.

Private Shoreline Improvements

Prior to development of the Wheeler Reservoir plan, TVA permitted owners of private land which adjoined certain parcels of TVA land to construct and maintain facilities for private

use. These facilities, some of which are boat docks, boat houses, picnic shelters, decks, walkways, sea walls, and landscaping, were only permitted under certain conditions and at certain locations. Consistent with this plan's objectives to determine the most suitable use for remaining public reservoir land, TVA will continue to consider such requests for private use only on selected plan tracts or portions of plan tracts where such use was previously considered and where the proposed use will not conflict with the interest of the general public or TVA staffs represented by the plan allocations.

The tract descriptions identify where TVA will consider requests for such improvements. On some plan tracts where such improvements have been permitted in the past, no new requests will be considered. Existing improvements which have not been formally approved by TVA will either be officially permitted (where the tract descriptions indicate that additional requests will be considered) or will be dealt with as encroachments, as the tract descriptions indicate.

Consideration of future requests on tracts so identified in the plan will be handled on a case-by-case basis and will be reviewed by appropriate TVA staffs, specifically including—but not limited to—cultural resources and navigation operations. Further investigation or mitigation of adverse impacts to natural or cultural resources may be required before approval of individual requests for private shoreline improvements.

PSD Class I Area

A prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) Class I area is one in which air quality is specially protected. Major new industries or industrial expansions within 30 miles (48 km.) of such an area must estimate potential impacts on air quality in that area, and those between 30 and 60 miles (48 km. and 97 km.) may be required to do so. The Sipsey National Wilderness Area, south of Wheeler Dam and west of Guntersville Dam, is the only Class I area within 60 miles (97 km.) of Wheeler Reservoir.

Reservoir Operations Tracts

Prior to the reservoir lands planning process (1979), TVA made land-use decisions based on a forecast system approach. The term "reservoir operations" was used to identify specific TVA land where the field District Manager had been given the authority by the TVA Board of Directors to approve or deny minor shoreline alterations requested by adjacent private landowners. In cases where property owners had no rights of ingress or egress across TVA property but owned land adjacent to a Reservoir Operations tract, the agency could provide a letter permit, allowing the property owner the right to construct preapproved private shoreline improvements. In most cases, TVA retained the right to request the removal of the improvements upon 30 days' written notice. If the property owner did not comply within the designated grace period, TVA could remove them at the owner's expense.

During TVA's formative years (1930s and 1940s) when public land was more abundant, the agency wanted to assist in providing recreation access to the reservoir wherever feasible. Reservoir Operation tracts provide this opportunity and are disbursed throughout the entire TVA Valleywide reservoir system. Some reservoirs had few, while others had large numbers, of these tracts. Under the forecast system, Reservoir Operation tracts and other land uses were selected by TVA staff with no formal public participation or external involvement.

Over the years, TVA has sold, transferred, or otherwise committed both large and small blocks of public land. Today TVA is at a point where the agency has only scattered remnants of land remaining for public use and other benefits. TVA's initial reservoir land base of 600,000 acres (242,820 ha.) above normal pool elevation has been reduced Valleywide to less than 80,000 acres (32,376 ha.) of uncommitted public land. Because of increased public pressure placed on TVA's shrinking land resources, the agency no longer recognizes Reservoir Operation tracts as a viable land use.

All uncommitted TVA land, including Reservoir Operation tracts, are included as planned land under TVA's current reservoir land management planning process. There were 78 tracts around Wheeler formerly identified for Reservoir Operations. Collectively these tracts account for 4,274 acres (1,710 ha.) of TVA public land on Wheeler Reservoir.

Riffle

A shoal or shallow in a stream, producing a stretch of fast moving choppy water.

Riparian

A term used to describe the land or habitat bordering a stream or lake. Riparian habitats occur along the edge of TVA's reservoir shoreline. In such habitats, vegetation influenced by the reservoir is located along a well-defined hydrological (moisture) gradient ranging from low areas occupied by standing water or wet soils to steeper, drier sites. Because adjacent landowners frequently clear their forest to accommodate agriculture, home construction, or other more intensive land uses, the landward extent of forested riparian habitats is determined by TVA's property boundary.

Riprap

A grouping of uniformly large rock over smaller stone designed to alleviate potential erosion. It is placed in a specific manner to accomplish primarily engineering purposes. The normal purpose of riprap is to protect earth slopes like dams, road fills, and drainage ways, or slopes that are part of the natural shoreline of a river or lake.

Section 26a Review Process

Section 26a of the TVA Act requires TVA review and approval of plans for obstructions such as docks, fills, bridges, outfalls, water intakes, and riprap before they are constructed across, in or along the Tennessee River and its tributaries. Applications for this approval are coordinated appropriately with TVA programs and USACE. USACE issues a joint public notice for those applications that are not covered by a USACE nationwide, general, or regional permit. The appropriate state water pollution control agency must also certify that the effluent from outfalls meets the applicable water quality standards.

Significant Cultural Resources

Some of the tract descriptions state that "the tract contains significant cultural resources" or that "cultural resource considerations may affect development of the tract." However, many of the tract descriptions contain no reference to archaeological or other cultural resources. Since only a sample archaeological survey was performed, the lack of such

references within a tract description does not necessarily indicate that significant cultural resources do not exist. The use of any tract for developmental purposes may require additional archaeological testing or mitigation of adverse impact to archaeological sites. The costs of required testing or mitigation may be the responsibility of the developer.

Silviculture

The science of growing trees. The art of cultivating forest crops based on the study of the life history of forest trees and the knowledge of forest ecology or general characteristics of the forest stand, such as soils, hydrology, stand density, tree height, shape, and diameter.

TVA Fee Land or Fee-owned Land

The land over which TVA owns at least the surface interests and which normally includes all underlying mineral or subsurface rights. TVA "lands" are lands of the United States that are in TVA's custody and control as a federal agency.

Wetlands

Aquatic Bed Wetlands—These wetlands are dominated by plants that grow principally on or below the surface of the water for most of the growing season in most years. Aquatic beds represent a diverse group of plant communities that require inundation for optimum growth and reproduction. They exist best in relatively permanent water or under conditions of repeated flooding. The plants either are attached to the substrate or float freely in the water. The most common submersed aquatic plants found on Wheeler Reservoir are Eurasian water milfoil and spinyleaf naiad.

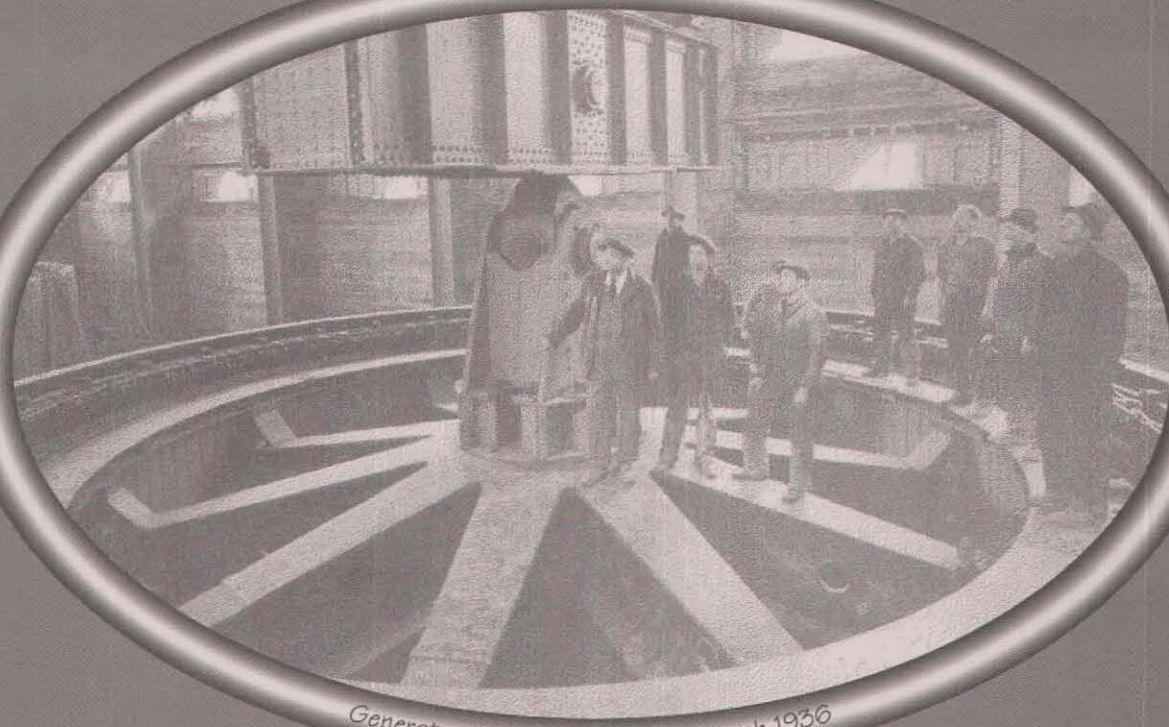
Emergent Wetlands—Emergent wetlands are characterized by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytes. This type of vegetation is present for most of the growing season in most years. These wetlands are usually dominated by perennial plants. Common emergent wetland plants found on Wheeler Reservoir are cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and bulrushes (junus spp., scirpus spp.). An emergent wetland may be known by a common name such as "marsh" or "slough."

Forested Wetlands—Forested wetlands are comprised of woody vegetation that is at least 20 feet (6.1 m.) tall. The most common forested wetlands found along Wheeler Reservoir are temporarily flooded (flooded early in the growing season in most years) riparian zones. These areas are dominated by species such as red and silver maple, elm, boxelder, sycamore, and green ash. Other forested wetlands, more commonly known as bottomlands, may be comprised of the above-mentioned species, in addition to water and willow oaks.

Scrub-Shrub Wetland—Scrub-shrub wetlands are areas dominated by woody vegetation less than 20 feet (6.1 m.) tall. Plant species may include true shrubs, young trees, or trees and shrubs that are small and stunted because of environmental conditions. In many situations, scrub-shrub wetlands may represent a successional stage leading to forested wetland. The most common scrub-shrub wetland plant species found on Wheeler Reservoir are black willow (*Salix migra*) and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*).

Acronyms

ACES,	109,	Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service
ADEM,	87,	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
ALR,	63,	Agricultural Lands Review
AOS,	80,	Alabama Ornithological Society
AWA,	115,	Alabama Waterfowl Association
BFNP,	48,	Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
BMPs,	3,	Best Management Practices
CCC,	74,	Civilian Conservation Corps
COG,	101,	Council of Governments
EA,	3,	Environmental Assessment
EDR,	3,	Environmental Decision Record
EIS,	3,	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA,	83,	Environmental Protection Agency
FDA,	65,	Federal Drug Administration
FSA,	36,	Farm Service Agency (formally ASCS)
FWS,	36,	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
LMO,	113,	Land Management Office
NARCOG,	43,	North-central Alabama Regional Council of Governments
NEPA,	3,	National Environmental Policy Act
NRCS,	36,	Natural Resource and Conservation Service (formally SCS)
NRPA,	106,	National Recreation and Park Association
PSD,	87,	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
SCORP,	51,	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
S&WCD,	109,	Soil and Water Conservation District
TC&D,	8,	Tuscumbia-Courtland-Decatur (Railroad)
TVA,	1,	Tennessee Valley Authority
TVWA,	82,	Tennessee Valley Wildlife Association
USACE,	10,	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USGS,	109,	U.S. Geological Survey
WMA,	76,	Wildlife Management Areas



Generator Top -- Wheeler Dam, March 1936

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Implementation

Implementation

This plan sets forth a strategy for the management of reservoir land and identifies suitable uses for each tract of land. To move from the plan to actual integrated resource management will require coordination of TVA's property administration functions and resource management activities.

Property Administration

In relation to administering TVA property, the plan provides guidance for responding to requests for the use of TVA land. All inquiries about, or requests for, the use of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir should be made to TVA's Wheeler Land Management Office (LMO), 119 County Road 412, Town Creek, Alabama, 35672, (205) 685-4200 or 685-4205. Requests will generally fall into one of four categories: (1) a proposed land use that agrees with the allocation in the plan; (2) a proposed land use that does not agree with the plan allocation but is not otherwise inconsistent with TVA policy or legal authority; (3) public service uses not specifically considered during the development of the plan; or (4) a proposed land use that does not agree with the plan allocation and is also precluded by TVA policy or legal authority.

Proposals that fall into the fourth category of request would normally be rejected at the field-office level. For each of the other three categories of requests, the applicant will be required to demonstrate the public benefits of the request, the need for TVA reservoir land, and the capability of the tract to support the requested use. The applicant must also provide information about the proposed investment schedule, capital improvements, and other information typically required of any applicant for use of TVA land.

When a proposal is in agreement with the allocated use (category 1), the request will be reviewed in accordance with NEPA and other legal authorities. The plan data base (Appendix B) will allow such reviews to proceed quickly. If a proposed land use is not inconsistent with TVA policies but is not congruent with the allocated uses for a tract (category 2), the applicant will be asked to consider other tracts allocated for the proposed use. If an applicant finds none of the alternatives to be satisfactory, he or she will be asked to provide justification that a modification to the plan is warranted and in the best public interest. However, the burden of proof rests with the applicant.

On both types of requests that are not congruent with the plan (categories 2 and 3), TVA staff will use the plan data base and information provided by the applicant to determine if the requested site is physically capable of supporting the proposed use. If the capability evaluation reveals that the tract does not have the physical characteristics necessary to support the proposed use, the request will be denied. If the tract is found to be capable of supporting the proposed use, an interdisciplinary TVA team will conduct a suitability review that will include, in addition to public input, an assessment of the impacts on the environment, adjacent land uses, surrounding allocations, land management goals, reservoir plan objectives, and socioeconomic conditions. Public input will be a key component of this suitability analysis. If the request is found to be suitable, it will be coordinated within TVA, following established land use review procedures. Any requests involving a departure from the planned uses will require the approval of the TVA Board of Directors.

Resource Management

The plan establishes general strategies and recommendations for managing the tracts resources. Specific on-the-ground management activities will be more clearly defined by TVA land management teams responsible for implementing the allocated uses. In conjunction with field office teams, resource staffs develop an annual work plan based on the field team's business planning priorities.

Important resource data and specific development constraints are noted in many of the tract descriptions. The definitions of planned uses also set limits on what can and cannot be done on planned lands.

Plans developed for those tracts allocated for more than one use will reflect consideration and integration of all the allocated uses. All the uses on multiple-use tracts are of equal importance, and each involved program shares the responsibility for reaching agreement on appropriate management activities.

Land Resource staff, teams, and managers should review the plan tract allocations prior to preparation of annual work plans. Tract descriptions provide enough information to assist the management team in developing annual work plan priorities. It will be the joint responsibility of the LMO teams and the appropriate resource staffs to see that land management activities are implemented on schedule and within allocated budgets.

TVA's Land Management staff and LMO teams will monitor regional and local environmental, social, and economic changes that may indicate a need for updating or revising portions of the reservoir management plan. The plan is intended to be used for 10 to 12 years, after which TVA will initiate a review of land uses on the entire reservoir. During this review, input from the public and TVA staff will be used to identify necessary revisions to the reservoir plan and to make policy recommendations. The plan data base will be updated on a regular basis to ensure that information is kept current and accurate.

State Of Alabama And Wheeler Region

Networking Fact Sheet

The following telephone list is a quick reference table for securing general information or answers to questions or concerns related to Natural Resources, Recreation, Or Environmental issues, associated with TVA lands and lakes. As a customer service, TVA is developing similar fact sheets for each of the seven valley states within the Tennessee Valley region. This condensed list provides easy access to major public agencies who should be able to answer many of the more frequently asked questions related to the topics listed above.

TABLE VIII
State Of Alabama And Wheeler Region

	Agency Telephone Contact		
	TVA	**Other Federal**	**State**
General/Social			
• TVA Operator (24 hr/day)	(205) 729-2000		
• TVA Public Safety — Wheeler	(205) 247-5620 or 685-9644		(205) 353-0631
Muscle Shoals Reservation	(205) 386-2444		State Troopers
• Volunteer activities on TVA lands and lakes (i.e., lake monitoring or shoreline cleanups, etc.)	(423) 632-8975 (Knoxville, TN)		
• TVA visitors relations (i.e., plant or facility group tours)	(205) 386-2452		
• TVA map sales	(423) 751-6277 (Chattanooga, TN)		
• TVA communications (customer services)	(205) 532-2152		
• TVA Inspector General	1-800-423-3071		
• Alabama State Office Switchboard (State Information Listing)			(205) 242-8000
Water			
• TVA Lake Neighbors Newsletter/River Pulse	(423) 632-6770		
• Wheeler/Elk River Action Team	(205) 386-3428 or (423) 751-7318		
• Aquatic plant control or mosquito control	(205) 386-3653		
• Intake and discharge—permits or monitoring			ADEM (205) 353-1713
• Floodzones—lake structure profile for building	(205) 386-3465		
• Navigation Operations on TVA lakes	(423) 632-7157 (Knoxville, TN)		
Navigation Locks (Wheeler Dam)		USACE (205) 247-3311	USCG Auxiliary
Navigation Channel Buoys		USCG 1-800-848-2100	Decatur (205) 353-4891
			Joe Wheeler (205) 232-1461

State Of Alabama And Wheeler Region

	Agency Telephone Contact		
	TVA	**Other Federal**	**State**
Water (continued)			
• Lake levels or stream flows	Muscle Shoals (205) 386-2264 Other locations 1-800-238-2264		
• Fishing or musselling-licenses, limits, safe to eat, etc.	(205) 233-1609		(205) 242-3471 State Fisheries
• Water safety—boating, swimming, water contact information	(205) 233-1609	USCG 1-800-368-5647	(205) 353-0631 (205) 242-3673 Marine Police
• Water pollution problems		USCG 1-800-424-8802	ADEM (205) 353-1713
Land			
• TVA - Valleywide Shoreline Management Initiative	1-800-882-5263 (TVA-LAND)		
• General agricultural - problems or programs			(205) 844-4444 Auburn Ag. Exten.
• TVA agricultural licenses	(205) 571-4286		
• Soils, erosion, and siltation (Wheeler region)		FSA* (see legend) NRCS (205) 353-6632	
• Forest management	(205) 571-4287		
• Wildlife management	1-800-882-5263		
• Threatened or endangered plants or animals	(423) 632-1593 (Knox.)	FWS (205) 690-2181	(205) 242-3007 AL Natural Heritage
• Cultural Resources: Historical structures Archaeological artifacts	 (423) 632-1578 (Knoxville, TN) (423) 632-1578 (Knoxville, TN)		
• Permits to build along TVA shoreline**	Wheeler Team (205) 685-4200 or 685-4205		
• Wetlands problems or issues	(205) 571-4286	FWS (205) 690-2181 (Daphne, AL)	

State Of Alabama And Wheeler Region

Land (continued)	Agency Telephone Contact: TVA	Other Federal	State
• Availability of industrial or commercial sites adjacent to TVA lakes**	Wheeler Team (205) 685-4200 or 685-4205		NARCOG (205) 355-4515 TARCOG (205) 533-3330 NACOLG (205) 381-0867 NAIDA (205) 353-9450
• Air pollution problems			ADEM (205) 353-1713
• Solid/hazard waste problems			ADEM (205) 353-1713
• TVA powerline and rights-of-way	(205) 386-2066		
Recreation on TVA lakes:			
-TVA lake recreation maps	(423) 632-1600 (Knoxville, TN)		
-Camping and picnicking areas	(423) 632-1805 (Knoxville, TN)		
-Boat ramps or access	(423) 632-1805 (Knoxville, TN)		G&F (205) 242-3471
-Trails and small wild areas	(423) 632-1600 (Knoxville, TN)		
-Hunting safety or hunting areas			G&F (205) 242-3623
• Alabama State Parks (General)			1-800-252-7275
• Joe Wheeler State Park			(205) 247-5466
• Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge		(205) 353-7243	
• U.S. Army - Redstone Arsenal		(205) 876-2151	
• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Decatur District Office		(205) 350-5620	
• State Division of Game and Fish Swan Creek WMA, Decatur, Alabama and Mallard/Fox Creek WMA		(205) 353-2634	

Legend

TVA = Tennessee Valley Authority

USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USCG = U.S. Coast Guard

FWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

USFS = U.S. Forest Service

NRCS = Natural Resource and Conservation Services

ADEM = Alabama Department of Environmental Management

G&F = Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Game and Fish

*FSA = Farm Service Agency Offices

Madison County	(205) 532-3677
Marshall County	(205) 582-5380
Morgan County	(205) 773-6541
Lawrence County	(205) 974-1174
Limestone County	(205) 232-4025
Lauderdale County	(205) 764-5833

**The TVA Wheeler Land Management Office, 119 County Road 412, Town Creek, Alabama, 35672 (205) 685-4200 or 685-4205; Public Safety (205) 685-9644 or 247-5620

Wheeler Team Reservoirs: Tims Ford, Wilson, Wheeler, and Great Falls

Other TVA Land Management Teams serving North Alabama:
-Guntersville Land Management Team (205) 571-4280 or (205) 571-4283
-Pickwick; Bear Creek Land Management Team (205) 386-3451 or (205) 386-3782

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendix A: Public Participation

Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan

Appendix A: Public Participation

January 1996

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WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendix A: Public Participation

Forward

Section I

Forward

Appendix A: Public Participation is a companion piece to the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan, 1995-2005. Covering 11,284 acres[1] of TVA-owned property around the Wheeler Reservoir, the Plan represents the efforts of TVA, public officials, and local citizens to ensure the most suitable use of these public lands.

Public involvement was a key element of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Planning process. By design, local residents and users of the reservoir were involved from the beginning through a series of six public information sessions, three public workshops and a number of focused interviews. Peer agency participation provided intergovernmental coordination. Goals and objectives for the plan were developed based on public and staff input. Public comments recorded in workshops were used along with extensive resource data to develop a Draft Land Management Plan. The Draft Plan was then sent to the public for review and comment.

As part of the public review of the Draft Plan, TVA sponsored three public meetings within the Wheeler Reservoir area to listen to individual comments and to answer questions relating to the draft. Since not all of the questions or comments could be answered at these public meetings, some were addressed in writing by TVA staff following the meetings. Additional meetings were held with citizens, as needed, to resolve site-specific issues and concerns. The Draft Plan was modified to reflect public input, and was approved by the TVA Board December 13, 1995.

This appendix provides comprehensive documentation of all public involvement in the Wheeler Planning process through the development of the final Wheeler Land Management Plan. Included is documentation of:

1) TVA's contact with the media
2) Public information meetings
3) Peer agency and focused interview processes
4) Public workshops
5) Public review of the draft plan and TVA's response
6) Site specific issues, and
7) Modifications to the final draft plan.

[1] Early documentation of the process refers to 13,000 acres, the original scope estimate. Policy decisions early in the process clarified the actual area to be included in the plan--11,284 acres.

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendix A: Public Participation

Media Contacts

Section II

Media Contacts

Introduction

To ensure widespread participation in the planning effort, the public input process began by providing the local media with information about the upcoming reservoir land management planning process. Public Service announcements about the planning process were sent to newspapers, radio and TV stations.

Section II includes:

- Media cover letter and releases with attachments
- Selected newspaper articles
- List of media contacts

COVER LETTER AND MEDIA RELEASES

ANNOUNCING THE INFORMATION MEETINGS TO BE HELD BETWEEN TVA'S PLANNING STAFF AND AREA COMMUNITY LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Tennessee Valley Authority, 17 Ridgeway Road, Box 920, Norris, Tennessee 37828-0920

February 25, 1991

Dear Media Contact:

Through March 21, TVA's Reservoir Land Planning staff will be meeting with various citizen groups, civic organizations, and local governments in the Wheeler Reservoir area.

The purpose of these informational meetings is to describe the upcoming effort to decide how 11,284 acres of TVA land around the lake will be used in the future. We hope to show people what our objectives are, and the importance of public involvement. With this information, we believe the public will more likely want to participate in one of the three public workshops scheduled for late March.

We will advise you of any additional informational meetings in your area as they are scheduled.

TVA's Reservoir Land Planning staff will be available for phone questioning or personal interviews if desired. We hope you will choose to give coverage to those informational meetings prior to the March public workshops. The media can play a key role in getting the public interested and involved in the future of TVA's public lands.

Enclosed is a prepared news release and media package including a brief fact sheet which describes the planning effort in more detail. If you need additional information or believe you may want to interview one of our staff, please call me direct at (615) 632-1550.

Thank you for your help and consideration.

Sincerely,

Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader
Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning

Radio Release

Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

News Release

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS ON WHEELER LAND USE ARE PLANNED

TVA HAS SCHEDULED WORKSHOPS TO OBTAIN PUBLIC VIEWS ON HOW AGENCY LAND AROUND WHEELER LAKE WILL BE USED OVER THE NEXT DECADE. WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, AT THE CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA ON HIGHWAY 72 WEST OF ATHENS, ALABAMA; WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, AT HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA; AND THURSDAY, MARCH 21, AT OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, DECATUR, ALABAMA. ALL WORKSHOPS WILL BEGIN AT 7 P.M. (CST).

MORE THAN 1,300 INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS HAVE BEEN INVITED AND THE WORKSHOPS ARE OPEN TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN EXPRESSING A VIEW.

# # #

Contact: John Doty, Knoxville, (615 632-3572)

(Mailed March 6, 1991)

1832N

Television and Newspaper Release

Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

News Release

Wheeler Planning Workshops Scheduled

Three workshops to involve the public in deciding the use of TVA land around Wheeler Lake have been scheduled in March. More than 1,300 organizations and individuals have been invited, and the meetings are open to anyone interested in expressing a view.

The purpose of the project is to develop a land management plan for the next decade for about 13,000 acres of TVA land around the lake. All potential uses of the land, including recreation, forestry, wildlife, industrial development, navigation, and agriculture will be considered.

TVA will consider public opinion, the physical characteristics of each tract, and Agency objectives to formulate a draft plan. The draft plan will then be publicly reviewed at a second set of meetings.

The workshops will be Tuesday, March 19, at the Clements High School cafeteria on Highway 72 west of Athens, Alabama; Wednesday, March 20, at the Huntsville High School library, Huntsville, Alabama; and Thursday, March 21, at the Oak Park Middle School auditorium, Decatur, Alabama. All workshops will begin at 7 p.m. (CST).

TVA is also conducting informational programs for civic groups, economic development groups, and local governing bodies to explain the process. For more information, contact TVA's planning staff at (615) 632-1549.

# # #

Contact: John Doty, Media Relations, Knoxville (615) 632-3572

(Mailed March 6, 1991)

1833N

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOPS - MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULES

MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR:

(1) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Tuesday, March 19, at Clements High School Cafeteria, Athens, Alabama, Phone (205) 729-6564

(2) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Wednesday, March 20, at Huntsville High School Library, Huntsville, Alabama, Phone (205) 532-4870

(3) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Thursday, March 21, at Oak Park Middle School Auditorium, in Decatur, Tennessee, Phone (205) 552-3035

TENTATIVE AGENDA

7:00 p. m. - 7:15 p.m.	Registration
7:15 p. m. - 7:30 p.m.	Introduction by Spencer Boardman, Project Leader of the Wheeler Reservoir Planning Project
7:30 p. m. - 7:45 p.m.	Break Up In Small Group Meeting Areas
7:45 p. m. - 8:30 p.m.	Small group discussions of first questions: WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT WHEELER RESERVOIR?
8:30 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.	Break
8:40 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Small group discussion of second question: WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF TVA LAND ON WHEELER RESERVOIR WOULD INCREASE ITS VALUE TO YOU?
9:00 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.	Small group discussions of third question: WHAT SHOULD THE SHORELAND OF WHEELER RESERVOIR LOOK LIKE IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE TEN YEARS FROM NOW?
9:20 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.	Reassemble into main meeting area
9:25 p.m. - 9:55 p.m.	Presentations by representatives from each small group
10:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Large group general question and answer opportunity
10:30 p.m.	Meeting Adjourned

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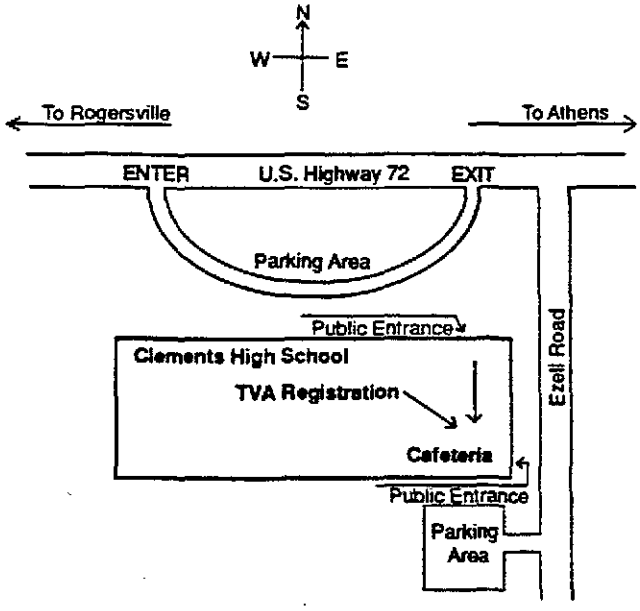
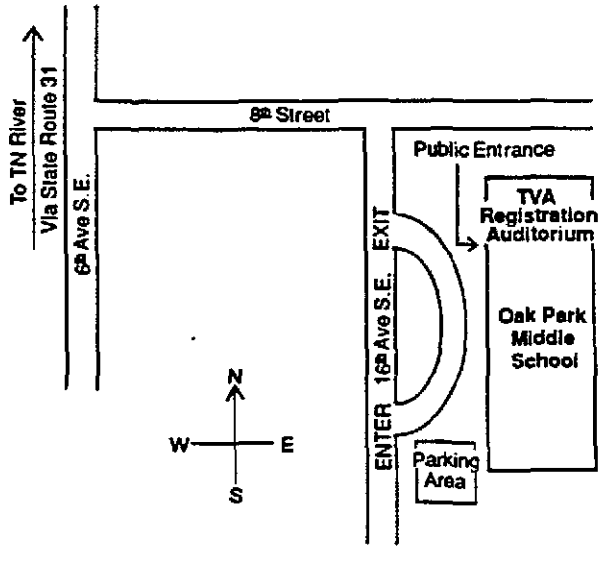
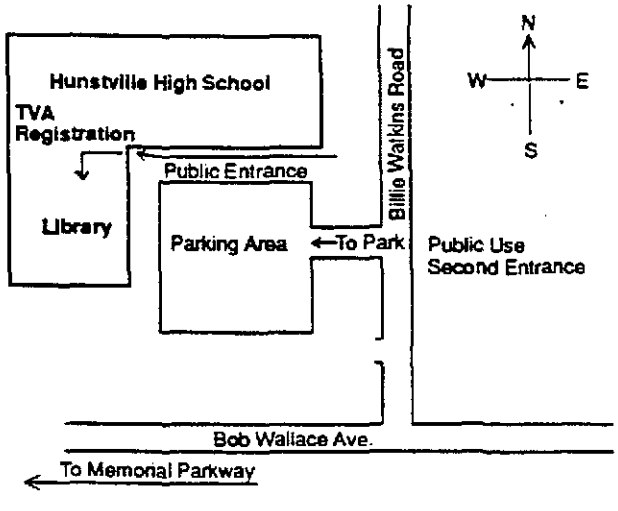
CLEMENTS PUBLIC WORKSHOP



DECATUR PUBLIC WORKSHOP



HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC WORKSHOP



WHEELER LANDS PLANNING
PLANNING PROCESS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT IS THE WHEELER RESERVOIR PLANNING PROJECT?

Wheeler reservoir is the last of the nine mainstream reservoirs to undergo TVA's comprehensive lands planning effort. The purpose of this TVA project is to develop a management plan--a guide for the future--for approximately 13,000 acres of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir. The plan will streamline TVA's handling of future requests for use of the land and allow the agency to better meet its public land management responsibilities.

TVA manages land for recreation, forestry, wildlife, cultural resources, industrial development, navigation, and agriculture, among other uses. In this planning project, careful consideration is given to <u>all</u> these possible uses of land. Public comment and analysis by TVA staff are combined with extensive local and regional information to identify the best uses for TVA land. Specific tracts of TVA land are designated for one or more uses to be managed by TVA or other appropriate entities.

Plans have already been completed for six TVA reservoirs (Pickwick, Guntersville, Kentucky, Watts Bar, Chickamauga, and Nickajack). Plans will eventually be completed for selected tributary reservoirs like Tellico, Norris, Melton Hill, and others. Upon completion, each plan will direct TVA's land administration and management activities for up to 10 years, after which it will be evaluated and updated, if necessary. The remaining two mainstream reservoirs (Fort Loudoun and Wilson) are not candidates for comprehensive plans because TVA's public land ownership is limited, making it not feasible to undertake major land management planning projects like Wheeler.

WHAT LAND IS INCLUDED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

This project deals only with TVA land that has not been committed or developed for other uses. It excludes the land around TVA power plants and the marginal strip (shoreland subject to outstanding or easement rights retained by third parties).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS?

The public workshops are the first and most important arena for public discussion of land use on Wheeler Reservoir. The workshops are held early in the planning process so public needs, desires, and concerns can be expressed and considered <u>before</u> uses are identified for TVA land.

Public involvement is essential because the use and management of specific tracts of TVA land can affect the use of private land around it. Furthermore, the use of TVA land in general can affect the whole region. As citizens of the reservoir area or the Tennessee Valley region, you will be asked to comment on how you think TVA's public lands should be used and managed. Your comments and suggestions <u>will be important</u> in determining the final outcome of the plan.

HOW WILL THE WORKSHOPS BE CONDUCTED?

Most of the meeting time will be spent in small group discussions. We have found that these small groups give everyone a better chance to be heard. A leader will be assigned to each group to encourage discussion, ensure that everyone has an opportunity to provide input, record comments, and maintain the time schedule.

The leader will ask the group to respond to three questions:

1. WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT WHEELER RESERVOIR?

2. WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF TVA LAND ON WHEELER RESERVOIR WOULD INCREASE ITS VALUE TO YOU?

3. WHAT SHOULD THE SHORELAND OF WHEELER RESERVOIR LOOK LIKE IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

In considering the first two questions, think of the ways you use the reservoir and how TVA land could be used to meet local and regional needs. The third question is designed to build on the results of the first two questions to produce a reservoir-specific picture of acceptable land uses.

The questions will be dealt with one at a time. After all three questions are addressed, each small group will be asked to choose a spokesperson to summarize the group discussion in a final session for all participants..

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS?

The information generated in the small groups at the public workshops will be compiled and a report of the results of all the workshops will be sent back to the participants. The report gives you a chance to check that we correctly recorded your comments.

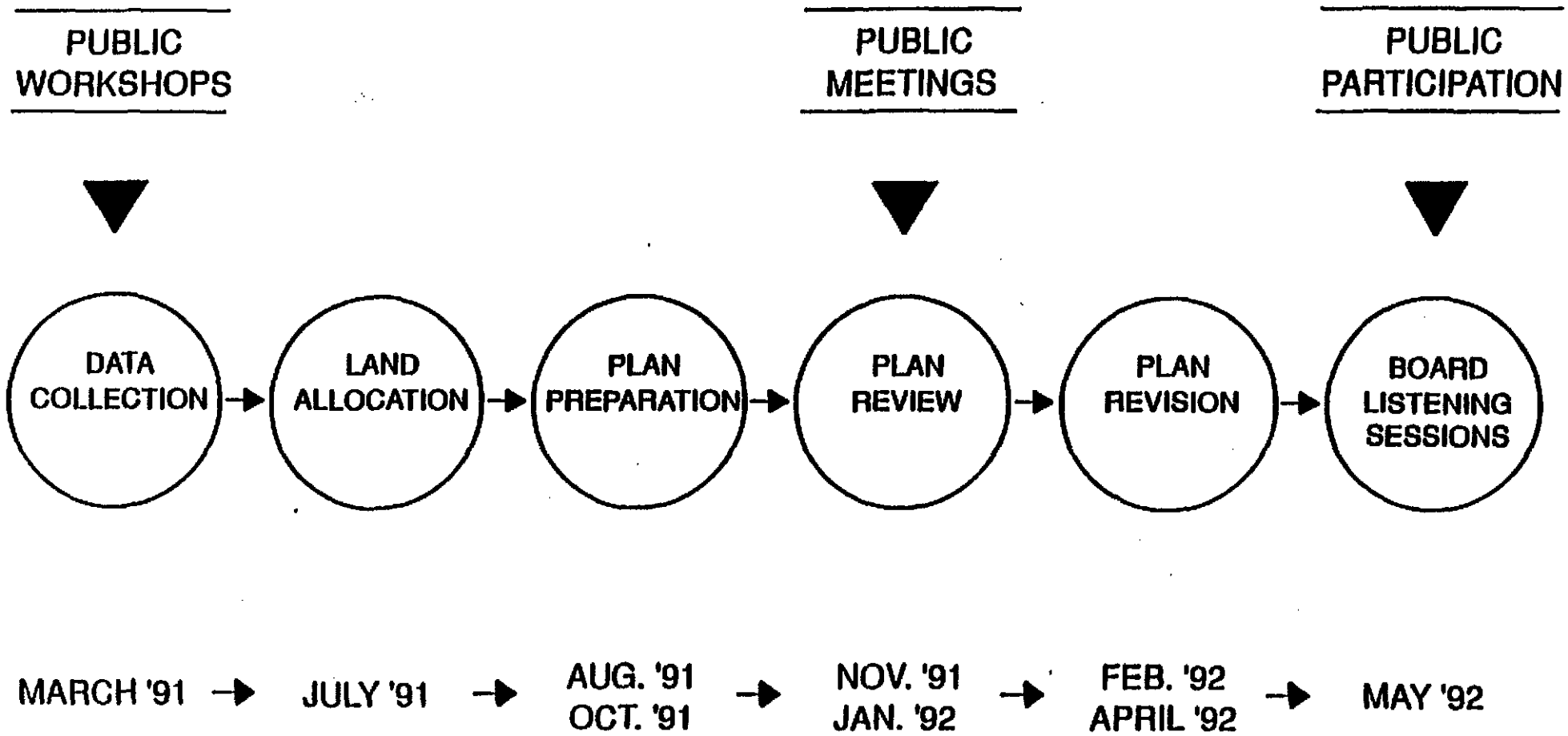
TVA's planning staff will use the public comments, along with other information about natural resources, socioeconomic conditions, adjacent land uses, and existing local and regional plans, to identify suitable uses for TVA's reservoir land. The draft plan showing the uses identified will be distributed for public review (see figure 1). You will have several weeks to comment by mail or you may comment in person at a second round of public meetings to be held for that purpose. The staff will consider all comments about the draft plan, make changes as appropriate, and send the public a report on any recommended changes to the draft plan. Following public review, the TVA Board of Directors has the option of holding a listening session in the reservoir area regarding specific issues or public concerns.

Finally, the planning staff will make any further revisions and submit the plan to the Board for formal approval at an open Board meeting. Copies of the final plan will be available upon request.

RLP-4451L

FIGURE I

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



WHEELER LAKE FACTSHEET

Lake Highlights

- Wheeler is the seventh and last mainstream lake to come under the agency's new lake planning process. The lake was impounded in 1936, is approximately 67,000 acres in size, with 1,063 miles of shoreline, and is 74 miles long.

- TVA acquired approximately 104,000 acres for the lake project in 1933. Today, TVA is the steward for approximately 28,000 acres of fee-owned land above full pool elevation 556. Of this total, 13,000 acres (lands uncommitted to any specific long-term use) will be addressed in the Wheeler planning process.

- The balance of the 104,000 acres is broken down as follows:

  - Approximately 50,000 acres under the lake
  - Approximately 16,000 acres of land sold for commercial, industrial, and residential uses
  - Approximately 10,000 acres of land transferred to other agencies, i.e., state, federal, local

- Lower Segment - Private residential development has occurred along the lower portion of the lake and along the Elk River, the largest tributary on the lake. Joe Wheeler State Park is located on both the north and south sides of the lake near Wheeler Dam. Limestone County Park near Lucy's Branch Marina/Resort is on the north bank upstream from the Elk. The remaining TVA retained lands adjacent to the lake within this lower segment are generally in forestry or agricultural production.

- Middle Segment - The central portion of the lake near Decatur represents the largest population center and the greatest concentration of industrial development throughout the lake. The newest industrial complex, Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority, is also located west and downstream of the city. The Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, two state wildlife management areas (Swan Creek and Mallard/Fox Creek) and Decatur Boat Harbor are located within this reach of the river. TVA's Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and two TVA public recreation areas are also located in this middle segment. Point Mallard Municipal Park is located east of Decatur at the confluence of Flint Creek and Wheeler Lake.

- Upper Segment - The upper third of Wheeler Lake is generally composed of a narrow strip of undeveloped TVA fee-owned land with much of the rural backlying private property being used for cattle production and agriculture. Major tributaries within this section of the lake are Cataco Creek, Flint River, and Paint Rock River. The only significant development along this upper reach includes the U. S. Army Redstone Arsenal, and the Huntsville-Madison County Marina/Recreation Area, and Madison County Boat Harbor.

The Planning Process

- This new planning process is a progressive approach aimed at better management of lake resources through detailed computer analysis of land capabilities and suitabilities with an emphasis on public participation.

- The Land Management Planning process considers the land's physical CAPABILITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS (i.e., slope, soil type, access) and SUITABILITY (i.e., public values, environmental considerations, adjacent land uses, lake management goals, etc.).

- Benefits:

  1) Incorporates public needs and values into TVA's decisionmaking
  2) Gives adjoining property owners a clear statement of how TVA intends to manage its lands
  3) Allows local communities to plan in such a manner that they can take advantage of TVA lands in their growth
  4) Clearly identifies sites for different developmental purposes, i.e., recreation, industry, wildlife, etc.
  5) Speeds handling of requests for use of TVA land
  6) Minimizes conflicting land uses

- Contact: Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader, (615)632-1550

0835o

SELECTED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

ANNOUNCING THE UPCOMING WHEELER LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

THE DECATUR DAILY, Sunday morning, March 10, 1991

TVA seeking public input on use of lands

By KEN RETHERFORD
DAILY Staff Writer

Apathy: This is what TVA representative Spencer Boardman fears may happen when the utility attempts to get public input about future uses for local TVA-held lands.

"We want the residents of this area to talk to us so we can have an idea of what they want in a comprehensive land-use plan," Boardman said. "But if the people don't come to meetings and let us know, the Tennessee Valley Authority will decide what the best use is."

The land in question is about 13,000 acres along the 74-mile Wheeler Reservoir in Madison, Morgan, Lawrence, Lauderdale and Limestone counties. Some parcels are scattered bits and pieces of a few acres while others cover larger areas. They range from swampland to prime riverfront, Boardman said.

Public meetings have been scheduled for 7 p.m. on March 19 at Clements High School; March 20 at Huntsville High School; and March 21 at Oak Park Middle School in Decatur.

TVA acquired about 104,000 acres for the reservoir project in 1933 and today has about 28,000 acres above full pool elevation. Of the original acreage, 50,000 acres is under the lake; 16,000 acres have been sold for commercial, industrial and residential uses; and about 10,000 acres have been transferred to other state, federal and local agencies.

No land has been sold for private use since 1960, he said.

"These 13,000 acres are the last remaining pieces of TVA land along the reservoir that haven't been sold or transferred to a city or county government. This is a wonderful chance for the public to get involved at the beginning to determine how this land will be used in the next decade," Boardman said.

Wheeler Reservoir is the seventh and last mainstream reservoir to come under the agency's new reservoir-planning process. The lake was impounded in 1936 and is approximately 67,000 acres in size with 1,063 miles of shoreline.

Although more than 1,300 organizations and individuals have been invited to attend the meetings this month, Boardman said turnout in other areas during planning stages has at times been small. "We don't want to see this become a sounding

Please see TVA, page A8

TVA

Continued from page A1

board for special-interest groups. We want every citizen to have a say."

Boardman said uses may include recreation areas, boat ramps, forestry, agricultural and commercial recreation. "Other areas may be habitat protection for endangered species of plants and animals, small wildlife areas that may be unique to that particular area.

"I can't promise if someone comes in an wants a boat ramp in a certain location that one will be built there. There are financial limitations and limitations set by how many people will be served. But I can assure that person that the request will be considered along with others."

Boardman said TVA wants to know how the typical citizen values the reservoir. "Some may have concerns about hunting, fishing or camping. Others may have more concerns about general recreation. They can tell us how they feel about industry. Do they think the reservoir can hold more, or is enough there now?

"The hunter and fisherman who go to hard-to-reach places will have a different view than the person who uses the lake for boating and skiing or the person who wants an area with hookups for a camper."

TVA also would like to know about the wildlife in the area. Is there a good diversity of areas with Swan Creek and Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, one state funded and the other federally. "Some people may think we need more of these areas set aside for perhaps county or state parks," Boardman said.

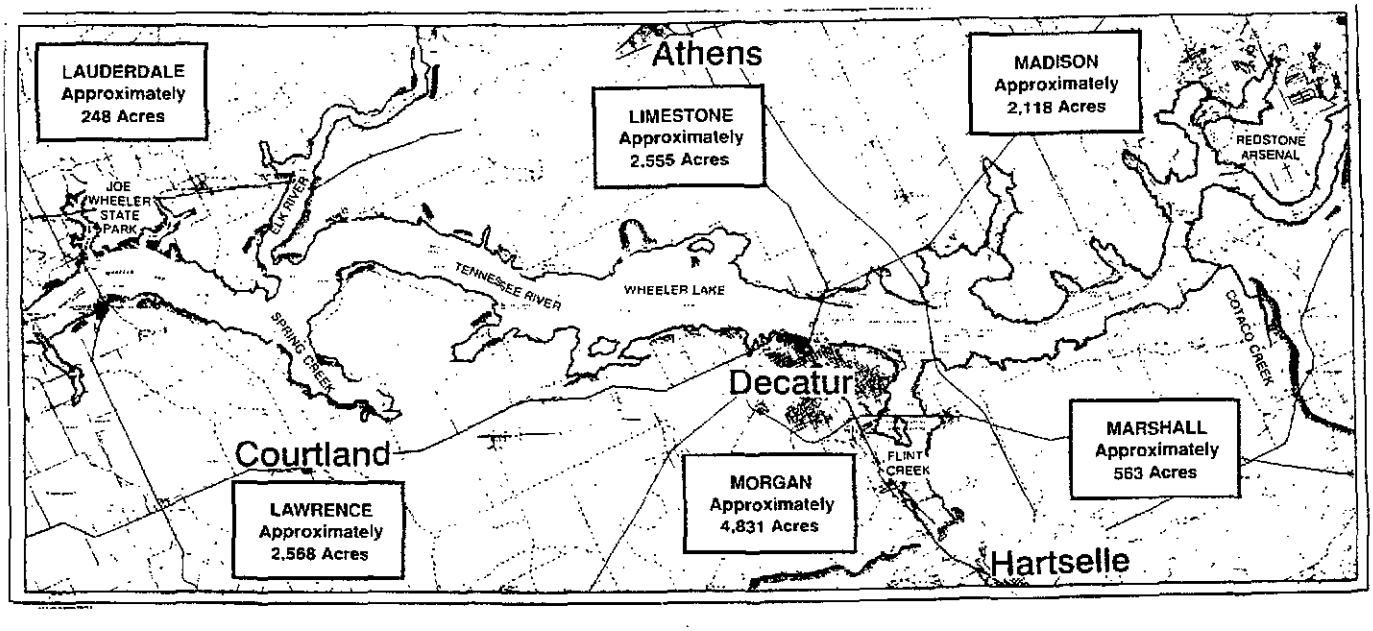
The highest value people held in other reservoir systems was maintaining the visual quality and water quality. "Most of the people attending didn't want to see a lot changed."

He said there was only one conflict at Chickamauga Reservoir in Tennessee that dealt with a small sand beach swimming area. "TVA was short on funds and was going to have to close the site. We had a hearing ... and our only alternative to keeping it open was to open it to a concessionaire and charge a fee. It finally happened that the county agreed to hire lifeguards and provide operating money. That recreation area is now open — proof that the hearing process works."

In the past, Boardman said many people have been turned off by public meetings because plans have been finalized before getting public input. "I want to assure everyone that first of all there has been no predetermination about the uses of these lands."

Wheeler Reservoir, he said, has more industry than any other TVA reservoir. "Many areas of the lake are blocked off by existing industry and a key to these meetings may be looking at access strips the public can use. In some areas, it may be too late," Boardman said.

Access strips also could open landlocked areas to industries that want to locate inland with access to the river, he said. "The variety of uses is endless," he added.



Shaded areas indicate scattered Tennessee Valley Authority lands to be discussed

The Advertiser-Gleam

Wednesday, March 6, 1991 - Guntersville, Ala. 35976

To talk about future of land along Wheeler

TVA is making some long-range plans for the property it owns along Wheeler Lake below Guntersville Dam.

Spencer D. Boardman of TVA will give an informal talk on the project tomorrow morning (Thursday) at 7:00 in Reid's Restaurant. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. The public is invited.

TVA did a similar land-use study of their Guntersville Lake property a few years ago. The result was a plan designed to guide TVA's decisions about what to allow its land to be used for.

The Huntsville Times Wednesday, March 6, 1991

TVA will hold public meetings on land planning

By CHRISTOPHER BELL
Times Staff Writer

DECATUR — TVA told Decatur officials Tuesday it will hold three public meetings next week in Athens, Huntsville and Decatur to gain input in planning "for the future of TVA public land on Wheeler Lake."

Spencer D. Boardman, TVA project leader for Wheeler Reservoir land planning, said TVA is initiating a new project to develop a plan for the use and management of 13,000 acres of TVA land on the reservoir.

"We welcome and are interested in hearing everyone's concerns about the management of this land," he said.

The first meeting will be next Tuesday at Clements High School cafeteria west of Athens.

The next, one week from today, will be at the Huntsville High School library and the third will be Thursday, March 21, at Oak Park Middle School auditorium in Decatur. All three begin at 7 p.m. and are designed to last 3½ hours.

"These will not be formal public hearings," Boardman stressed. "Rather, they will be informal workshops designed to allow everyone a chance to participate in small groups and voice their personal desires and concerns about Wheeler Reservoir."

Decatur and Morgan County officials were given outlines of the meetings Tuesday and Athens and Limestone County officials were updated this morning.

Boardman will be in Guntersville Thursday and in Huntsville Friday to talk with officials and encourage participation in next week's meetings.

After an introduction by Boardman, those attending a meeting will form small groups, he said.

The topics will include:

- "What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?"
- "What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?"
- "What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use 10 years from now?"

Boardman said Wheeler Lake is the seventh and last mainstream reservoir to come under TVA's new reservoir planning process.

The lake was impounded in 1936 and extends from Guntersville Dam 74 miles west to Wheeler Dam.

The lake, including the stretch of Tennessee River, contains 67,000 ares of land and water with 1,063 miles of shoreline.

He said TVA acquired about 104,000 acres for the reservoir project in 1933.

"Today, TVA is the steward for approximately 28,000 ares of fee-owned land above full pool level elevation 556," he said. "Of this total, 13,000 acres of land uncommitted to any specific long-term use will be addressed in the Wheeler planning process."

He said about 50,000 acres are under the lake, another 16,000 acres of land are sold for commercial, industrial and residential uses and 10,000 acres of land have been transferred to other agencies.

He said the upper segment of Wheeler Lake is composed of a narrow strip of undeveloped TVA-owned land with much of the rural private property being used for cattle production and agriculture.

Major tributaries within this section of the reservoir, he said, are Cotaco Creek, Flint River and Paint Rock River.

"The only significant development along this upper reach includes Redstone Arsenal, the Huntsville-Madison County Marina and the Madison County Boat Harbor," he said.

The middle segment near Decatur represents the largest population center and the greatest concentration of industrial development throughout Wheeler Lake, he said.

The new industrial complex is the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority, west of here, he said.

The Wheeler National Wildilfe Refuge, two state wildlife management acres, Swan Creek and Mallard-Fox Creek, and the Decatur Boat Harbor are along the river, he added.

Also within the segment are the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and two TVA public recreation areas.

Point Mallard, a city owned recreational complx, is at the mouth of Flint Creek and on land owned by TVA.

The lower segment includes Joe Wheeler State Park, on both the north and south sides of the lake, near Wheeler Dam, and Lucy's Branch Marina and Resort, on the north bank, upstream from the Elk River.

Boardman said information gathered at the public workshops will be compiled and a report made to the public and to the TVA board.

LIST OF MEDIA CONTACTS

RECEIVING THE MEDIA RELEASES, INCLUDING

9 newspapers

13 radio stations

5 television stations

Wheeler Media List

Newspapers

Courier Journal
P. O. Box 3916
Florence, AL. 35631

Evansville Press
P. O. Box 454
Evansville, IN. 47703

Huntsville Times
P. O. Box 1487
Huntsville, AL. 35807

Decatur Daily
721 Cedar St. Southwest
Decatur, AL. 35601

The Waterways Journal
319 North Fourth Street
666 Security Building
St. Louis, MO. 63102

Buffalo River Review
P. O. Box 3417
Linden, TN. 37096

The Advertiser-Gleam
P. O. Box 190
2220 Taylor Street
Guntersville, AL. 35976

Decatur Daily
Route 6, Box 370
Decatur, AL. 35640

Publisher
Decatur Daily
201 First Avenue
Decatur, AL. 35602

Radio Stations

WBCF
525 East TN. St.
Florence, AL. 35630

WQLT - FM
624 South Chestnut St.
Florence, AL. 35630

WDRM - FM
401 Fourteenth St. S. E.
Decatur, AL. 35601

WBTG - AM
1605 Gospel Rd.
Sheffield, AL. 35660

WAHR - FM
2714 Lawrence Ave. S. W.
Huntsville, AL. 35802

WBHL
P. O. Box IBC
Florence, AL. 35630

WVNA - AM
509 North Main St.
Tuscumbia, AL. 35674

WDKT
200 Main St.
Madison, AL. 35758

WLAY - AM
620 East 2nd St.
Muscle Shoals, AL. 35661

WBHP - FM
2101 Governors Drive, S. W.
Huntsville, AL. 35802

Radio Stations, Continued

WKQD - FM
137 Murtrie Lane
Huntsville, AL. 35801

WTAK - AM
6420 Stringfield Rd. N. W.
Huntsville, AL. 35802

WRSA - FM
P. O. Box 4144
Huntsville, AL. 35802

Television Stations

WOWL - TV
P. O. Box 2220
Florence, AL. 35630

Brock Radio - TV
813 Madison St.
Huntsville, AL. 35801

WAFF - TV
Channel 48
Huntsville, AL. 35801

WTRT - TV
4600 Jackson Highway
Sheffield, AL. 35660

University of Alabama Television Station
P. O. Box 870150
Tuscaloosa, AL. 35487

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendix A: Public Participation

Information Meetings

Section III

Information Meetings

Introduction

From mid-February through the end of March 1991, TVA staff met with selected groups, organizations, and key individuals within the Wheeler Reservoir area to describe the planning process and to encourage public involvement. Information was provided about why, how, and what TVA was doing in relation to planning for the use of TVA lands on Wheeler Reservoir. Written material about the process was distributed at the meetings. Components of these handouts were sometimes reproduced in organization newsletters or found on community bulletin boards.

Many of the information meetings were covered by local newspaper and radio media resulting in several newspaper feature articles and/or public radio and TV announcements "spotlighting" the upcoming public workshops. This publicity, coupled with personal contact with community leaders and organizations—as well as 500 announcements sent home with school children—proved to be an effective method for giving advance notice and encouraging interested citizens to participate in the three public workshops which were held in March 1991.

Information Meetings (Section III) are designed for TVA to share information with the public. Public Workshops (Section V) are designed to help the public share with TVA their values and wishes regarding management changes on Wheeler Reservoir. Through the six Wheeler Reservoir information meetings, a broad-based public constituency throughout a six county area began to evolve showing an interest in the overall Wheeler Reservoir planning effort.

Section III includes the following documentation:

- Letter to County Commissioners
- Letter to TVA Power Distributors
- Summary of Participating Groups
- Information Meetings Attendance List
- Public Information Meeting Handout Package

LETTERS TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND POWER DISTRIBUTORS

WITH INFORMATION PACKAGE ANNOUNCING THE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND LOCATIONS

(Mailed to 6 county commission chairpersons and 13 power distributors)

Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, Tennessee 37828

Spencer D. Boardman
Project Leader, Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning

February 26, 1991

The Honorable Larry Bennich
Chairman, Morgan County Commission
P.O. Box 668
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Through the end of February and beginning of March, TVA's Reservoir Lands Planning staff wants to meet briefly with community "movers and shakers" for the purpose of notifying and encouraging government officials; citizen organizations; industrial, tourism, and commercial development groups; environmental groups; and other citizens to participate in the planning process for Wheeler Reservoir.

There will be six meeting locations, one in each of the six counties adjacent to Wheeler Reservoir. At these informational meetings, TVA will briefly describe the upcoming planning effort as it relates to future use of 13,000 acres of TVA land around the lake. We hope to show those people listed above what our objectives are, the process or steps we will use to reach these objectives, and the importance of public involvement. By presenting this information, we believe the public will be better informed and want to participate in one of the three public workshops scheduled for March 19, 20, and 21.

Enclosed is an information package which provides the public workshop schedule and locations, a planning process question and answer sheet, and a Wheeler Reservoir fact sheet. I have also enclosed a suggested invitation and a six-county mailing list of selected individuals who attended the TVA John Waters "Voyage of the Valley" Tennessee River Tour last year. I would like you to consider inviting those on the list within your county. Please feel free to supplement the list with anyone you think would be interested in attending the Wheeler informational meeting. I am planning for up to 50 invitees.

Thank you for your assistance and support concerning this public notification effort.

Sincerely,

Spencer Boardman

Spencer D. Boardman

Enclosure

D R A F T--Suggested invitation

February 26, 1991

Dear _____:

TVA needs your help in planning for the future of 13,000 acres of public lands around Wheeler Reservoir. You are invited to attend one of the six informational meetings to be held at the following locations.

County	City	Location	Time (CST)	Date
Morgan	Decatur	Decatur Courthouse Emergency Management Auditorium (Basement level) 302 Lee Street (351-4737)	7:30 a.m.	March 5
Limestone	Athens	Welcome Inn Highway 31 & 72 (232-6944)	7:30 a.m.	March 6
Marshall	Guntersville	Reids Restaurant Highway 431 (582-3162)	7:00 a.m.	March 7
Madison	Huntsville	Downtown Hilton Corner Monroe and Williams Avenue (533-1400)	7:30 a.m.	March 8
Lawrence	Moulton	Lawrence County Ag. Center Highway 157 (974-0663)	2:00 p.m.	March 11
Lauderdale	Florence	Executive Inn Meeting Room 504 S. Court Street (766-2331)	7:30 a.m.	March 12

At these informational meetings TVA will announce the upcoming public workshops scheduled for March 19, 20, and 21, briefly describe the planning process, and related objectives and the importance of public involvement.

Please make an effort to attend and feel free to invite an interested party.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Larry Bennich
Commission Chairman
Morgan County Commission
P.O. Box 668
Decatur, Alabama 35602

The Honorable William L. Hanbery
Commission Chairman
Lauderdale County Commission
P.O. Box 1059
Florence, Alabama 35631

The Honorable Mose Jones, Jr.
Commission Chairman
Lawrence County Commission
750 Main Street, Courthouse Annex
Moulton, Alabama 35650

The Honorable John C. Black
Commission Chairman
Limestone County Commission
310 West Washington Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

Mr. Sam Minor
Executive Director
Northwest Alabama Council of
Local Governments
P.O. Box 2603
Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662

Ms. Norma McCollum
Executive Director
Athens-Limestone Chamber
of Commerce
P.O. Box 150
Athens, Alabama 35611

RLP-0296D

Mr. Donald Ahlders
American Fructose Company
Route 1, Box 84
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Mr. Roy Bailey
Baker Sand and Gravel Company
Route 4
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

The Honorable Tom Butler
AL House of Representatives
1803 Forney Drive, NW
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Mr. Carl Allen
Wheeler Lockmaster
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

Mr. William Brock, Director
Emergency Management Agency
520 South Court Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

The Honorable Ray Campbell
Alabama Senate
Route 4, Box 43
Town Creek, Alabama 35672

Mr. John Seymour, President
Decatur Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 2003
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. E. E. Cobb, President
Huntsville Utilities
P.O. Box 2048
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

The Honorable Barbara Coffey
Mayor of Moulton
202 West Court Street
Moulton, Alabama 35650

The Honorable T. Freeman
Mayor of Gurley
P.O. Box 128
Gurley, Alabama 35748

The Honorable Ernest Dillard
AL House of Representatives
Route 1, Box 216
Courtland, Alabama 35618

Mr. Dalton Guthrie, Chairman
Decatur Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 2003
Decatur, Alabama 35602

The Honorable Wilburn Gower
Mayor of Town Creek
P.O. Box 190
Town Creek, Alabama 35672

The Honorable George Grayson
AL House of Representatives
3810 Melody Road, NE
Huntsville, Alabama 35811

Mr. J. D. Greene
Amoco Chemicals Corporation
P.O. Box 2215
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. Dovell Haley
Monsanto Chemical Company
P.O. Box 2204
Decatur, Alabama 35602

The Honorable Albert Hall
Alabama House of Representatives
Route 1, Box 275
Gurley, Alabama 35748

The Honorable Nolan Hill
Mayor of New Hope
P.O. Drawer 419
New Hope, Alabama 35760

Mr. Norm Hall, President
Skyline Homeowners Association
5622 Woodridge Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

Ms. Joan Harris
U.S. Congressman Bud Cramer
1000 Glenn Hearn Boulevard
Huntsville, Alabama 35824

Mr. Tom Hill
Alabama Farmers Co-op
P.O. Box 2227
Decatur, Alabama 35602

The Honorable Fred James
Mayor of North Courtland
P.O. Box 93
North Courtland, Alabama 35618

The Honorable Steve Hettinger
Mayor of Huntsville
P.O. Box 308
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

Mr. John Legrand
Continental Grain Company
Route 2, Box 39A
Hillsboro, Alabama 35643

The Honorable Robert Layne
Mayor of Owens Cross Roads
P.O. Box 158
Owens Cross Roads, Alabama 35763

Mr. Don Jones
Director of Community Affairs
Champion International
Courtland, Alabama 35618

The Honorable Rudolph McCarley
Mayor of Courtland
P.O. Box 160
Courtland, Alabama 35618

Mr. Bill Bannan, Vice President
Operations Manager
Champion International
P.O. Box 189
Courtland, Alabama 35618

Ms. Jenny Brownlow
Executive Director
AL Mountain Lakes Association
P.O. Box 1075
Mooresville, Alabama 35649

Mr. George Godwin, Jr.
General Manager
Decatur Utilities
P.O. Box 2232
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Ms. Jan Jones
Executive Director
TN River Valley Association
P.O. Box 1745
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Dr. Byron Nelson, Jr.
Superintendent
Decatur City Board of Education
302 Fourth Avenue, NE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Ms. Barbara A. Saunders
Regional Representative
ADECA1ADO Regional Office
115 Washington Street, SE
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Mr. Tommy Ed Roberts
Executive Director
Industrial Development Assoc.
P.O. Box 2026
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. O. J. Zeringue
Site Director
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
P.O. Box 200
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Ms. Francis Blankenship
Executive Secretary
Moulton-Lawrence County Chamber
P.O. Box 325
Moulton, Alabama 35650

Mr. Ray Campbell, Director
Alabama Center for Quality
and Productivity
P.O. Box 2216
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. John Hall, Manager
Joe Wheeler Electric
Membership Corporation
P.O. Box 889
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Mrs. Mary Ethel McDonald
Executive Assistant
U.S. Congressman Bud Cramer
Suite 204, 301 No. Seminary St.
Florence, Alabama 35630

Mr. Larry Waller
General Manager
Huntsville-Madison Co. Chamber
P.O. Box 408
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Dr. Wayne Reynolds
Superintendent
Athens City Board of Education
313 East Washington Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

Ms. Judy Ryals, Director
Huntsville Convention and
Visitors Bureau
700 Monroe Street, SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Commadore Robert Brazil
Coast Guard District Auxiliary
Southern Region
518 Oak Grove
New Hope, Alabama 35760

Dr. Jenny Bartlett
Interim President
Athens State College
Beaty Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

Dr. Jack Sasser
Interim President
Calhoun College
Beaty Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

Mr. Joe Johnson, President
Athens-Limestone Chamber
of Commerce
P.O. Box 876
Athens, Alabama 35611

Mr. David Madden
Executive Director
Russellville Housing
Authority
P.O. Box 966
Russellville, Alabama 35653

Mr. Mark Smith, Chairman
Huntsville-Madison Chamber
of Commerce
P.O. Box 408
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

Mr. James L. Roberts
Vice President
Decatur Transit, Incorporate
P.O. Box 1784
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Ms. Wanda Shedd
Assistant Manager
Wheeler State Park Resort
P.O. Drawer K
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

Mr. Jerry Davis
Executive Director
TN Valley Waterfowl
Association
P.O. Box 262
Guntersville, Alabama 35976

Dr. Benjamin Reaves, President
Oakwood College
Oakwood Road
Huntsville, Alabama 35896

Mr. Alton Sulcer, President
Hartselle Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 817
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Ms. Pam Lindley
U.S. Senator Richard Shelby
1000 Glenn Hearn Boulevard
Huntsville, Alabama 35824

The Honorable Howard Sanderford
AL House of Representatives
908 Tannahill Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

Mr. Ray Cox
3906 Battlefield Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35810

Mr. Bill Gardner
U.S. Senator Howell Heflin
Florence, Alabama 35631

Mr. Barrett Shelton, Jr.
Publisher, Decatur Daily
201 First Avenue
Decatur, Alabama 35602

The Honorable Teague Cuddeback
Mayor of Madison
P.O. Box 38
Madison, Alabama 35758

The Honorable Bill Smith
Alabama Senate
2009 Gallatin Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Ms. Lisa Shivers, Director
AL Bureau of Tourism & Travel
532 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Mr. Glenn Cunningham
Seaboard System
201 Sixth Street
Decatur, Alabama 35601

The Honorable Dorothy Smith
Mayor of Hillsboro
P.O. Box 10
Hillsboro, Alabama 35643

The Honorable James Smith
Alabama Senate
1820 Carson Lane
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

The Honorable Alonzo Toney
Mayor of Triana
640 Sixth Street
Madison, Alabama 35758

The Honorable Randy Waldrep
Commission Chairman
Lawrence Co. Courthouse Annex
Moulton, Alabama 35650

Mr. Glenn D. Wright
Champion Paper Company
P.O. Box 189
Courtland, Alabama 35618

Mr. Jim Worley
Missouri Portland Cement Co.
P.O. Box 2148
Decatur, Alabama 35602

The Honorable Roger Gibson
Mayor of Union Grove
Star Rt., Box 33
Union Grove, Alabama 35175

The Honorable Roger Gibson
Mayor of Union Grove
Star Rt., Box 33
Union Grove, Alabama 35175

Mr. W. R. Inman
Inman Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 42
Higdon, Alabama 35979

The Honorable Paul O'Neal
Mayor of Paint Rock
Town Hall
Paint Rock, Alabama 35764

Dr. Carl Marbury, President
Alabama A&M University
Normal, Alabama 35762

Ms. Nancy Large, President
Lawrence Co. Chamber of
Commerce
Route 4, Box 165
Town Creek, Alabama 35677

Mr. Bailey Ragan
Bunge Corporation
1400 Market Street, NE
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. J. Lewis Decell
Waterways Experiment Station
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 631
Vicksburg, MS 39181-0631

Mr. Lyle Haas, President
Tennessee Valley Clean Water Association
P.O. Box 1486
Scottsboro, Alabama 35768

Mr. Ralph Ainsworth
AL Department of Economic and Community Affairs
3465 Norman Bridge Road
Montgomery, Alabama 36105

Ms. Lori Light
Madison County Tourist Commission
200 Walker Avenue
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Mr. James D. Martin, Director
AL Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
64 North Union
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Mr. David Nelson
Environmental Coordinator
AL Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 1628
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Dr. David Teem
Alabama Experiment Station
107 Comer Hall
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama 36849

The Honorable Morris J. Brooks, Jr.
Alabama House of Representatives
9009 Randall Road
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor
Superintendent
Huntsville City Board of Education
P.O. Box 1256
Huntsville, Alabama 35807

The Honorable Mike Gillespie
Chairman
Madison County Commission
Madison County Courthouse
Courthouse Square, Seventh Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Dr. Lee Hartsell, Superintendent
Hartselle City Board of Education
101 West College Street
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Mr. Gerald R. Hooper
District Fishery Supervisor
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 366
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. Dean Y. Matthews
Executive Director
Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments
115 Washington Street, SE
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Mr. Ron Matthews
Executive Director
North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments
P.O. Box C
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Dr. Josep C. Moqin
Interim President
University of Alabama at Huntsville
118 Madison Hall
Huntsville, Alabama 35899

Mr. Walter Stevenson, Jr.
Program Manager
Natural Resources Development Section
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
P.O. Box 250347
Montgomery, Alabama 36125

Mayor Bill J. Dukes
City Hall
P.O. Box 488
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. John Seymour, Preside
Decatur Chamber of Commer
P.O. Box 2003
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. Tommy Lentz, Presiden
Moulton-Lawrence Chamber Commerce
P.O. Box 486
Moulton, Alabama 35650

The Honorable Mike Gille
Commission Chairman
Madison County Commissio
Madison County Courthous
Courthouse Square, 7th F
Huntsville, Alabama 3580

The Honorable Neal Fosse
Commission Chairman
Marshall County Commissi
P.O. Box 610
Guntersville, Alabama 35

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOPS - MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULES

MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR:

(1) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Tuesday, March 19, at Clements High School Cafeteria, Athens, Alabama, Phone (205) 729-6564

(2) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Wednesday, March 20, at Huntsville High School Library, Huntsville, Alabama, Phone (205) 532-4870

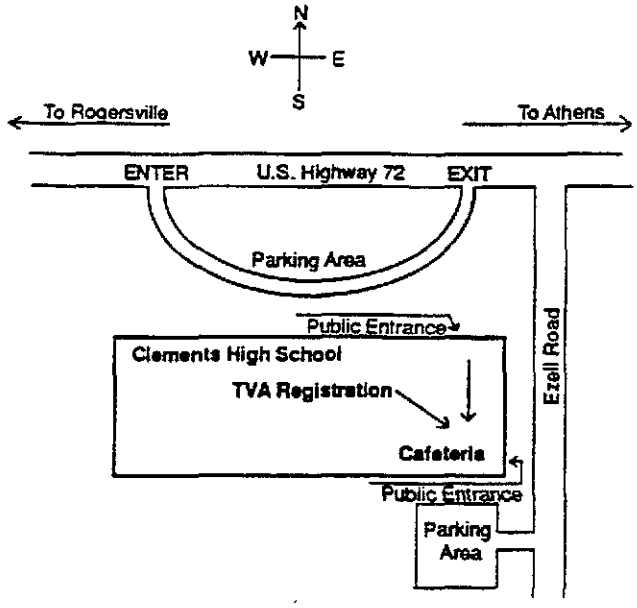
(3) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Thursday, March 21, at Oak Park Middle School Auditorium, in Decatur, Tennessee, Phone (205) 552-3035

TENTATIVE AGENDA

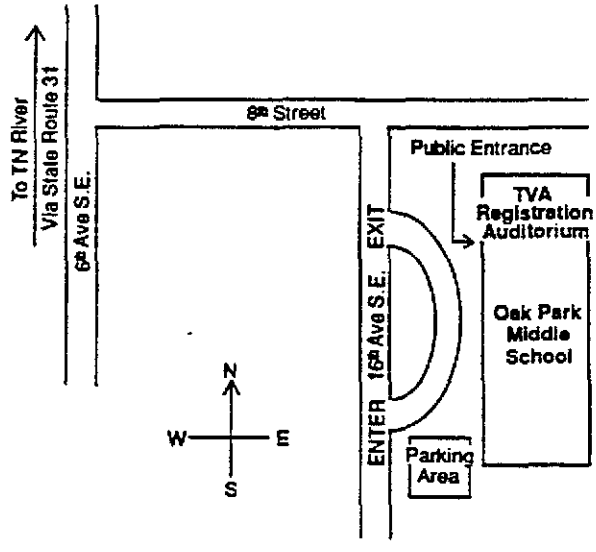
7:00 p. m. - 7:15 p.m.	Registration
7:15 p. m. - 7:30 p.m.	Introduction by Spencer Boardman, Project Leader of the Wheeler Reservoir Planning Project
7:30 p. m. - 7:45 p.m.	Break Up In Small Group Meeting Areas
7:45 p. m. - 8:30 p.m.	Small group discussions of first questions: WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT WHEELER RESERVOIR?
8:30 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.	Break
8:40 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Small group discussion of second question: WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF TVA LAND ON WHEELER RESERVOIR WOULD INCREASE ITS VALUE TO YOU?
9:00 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.	Small group discussions of third question: WHAT SHOULD THE SHORELAND OF WHEELER RESERVOIR LOOK LIKE IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE TEN YEARS FROM NOW?
9:20 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.	Reassemble into main meeting area
9:25 p.m. - 9:55 p.m.	Presentations by representatives from each small group
10:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Large group general question and answer opportunity
10:30 p.m.	Meeting Adjourned

RLP-4450L

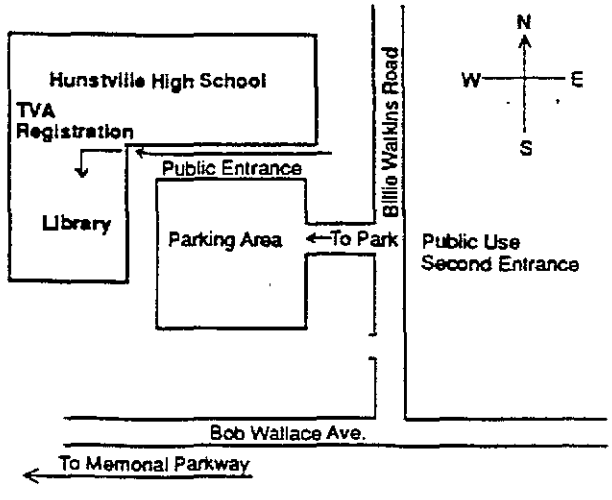
CLEMENTS PUBLIC WORKSHOP



DECATUR PUBLIC WORKSHOP



HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC WORKSHOP



WHEELER LANDS PLANNING
PLANNING PROCESS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT IS THE WHEELER RESERVOIR PLANNING PROJECT?

Wheeler reservoir is the last of the nine mainstream reservoirs to undergo TVA's comprehensive lands planning effort. The purpose of this TVA project is to develop a management plan--a guide for the future--for approximately 13,000 acres of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir. The plan will streamline TVA's handling of future requests for use of the land and allow the agency to better meet its public land management responsibilities.

TVA manages land for recreation, forestry, wildlife, cultural resources, industrial development, navigation, and agriculture, among other uses. In this planning project, careful consideration is given to <u>all</u> these possible uses of land. Public comment and analysis by TVA staff are combined with extensive local and regional information to identify the best uses for TVA land. Specific tracts of TVA land are designated for one or more uses to be managed by TVA or other appropriate entities.

Plans have already been completed for six TVA reservoirs (Pickwick, Guntersville, Kentucky, Watts Bar, Chickamauga, and Nickajack). Plans will eventually be completed for selected tributary reservoirs like Tellico, Norris, Melton Hill, and others. Upon completion, each plan will direct TVA's land administration and management activities for up to 10 years, after which it will be evaluated and updated, if necessary. The remaining two mainstream reservoirs (Fort Loudoun and Wilson) are not candidates for comprehensive plans because TVA's public land ownership is limited, making it not feasible to undertake major land management planning projects like Wheeler.

WHAT LAND IS INCLUDED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

This project deals only with TVA land that has not been committed or developed for other uses. It excludes the land around TVA power plants and the marginal strip (shoreland subject to outstanding or easement rights retained by third parties).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS?

The public workshops are the first and most important arena for public discussion of land use on Wheeler Reservoir. The workshops are held early in the planning process so public needs, desires, and concerns can be expressed and considered <u>before</u> uses are identified for TVA land.

Public involvement is essential because the use and management of specific tracts of TVA land can affect the use of private land around it. Furthermore, the use of TVA land in general can affect the whole region. As citizens of the reservoir area or the Tennessee Valley region, you will be asked to comment on how you think TVA's public lands should be used and managed. Your comments and suggestions <u>will be important</u> in determining the final outcome of the plan.

HOW WILL THE WORKSHOPS BE CONDUCTED?

Most of the meeting time will be spent in small group discussions. We have found that these small groups give everyone a better chance to be heard. A leader will be assigned to each group to encourage discussion, ensure that everyone has an opportunity to provide input, record comments, and maintain the time schedule.

The leader will ask the group to respond to three questions:

1. WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT WHEELER RESERVOIR?

2. WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF TVA LAND ON WHEELER RESERVOIR WOULD INCREASE ITS VALUE TO YOU?

3. WHAT SHOULD THE SHORELAND OF WHEELER RESERVOIR LOOK LIKE IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

In considering the first two questions, think of the ways you use the reservoir and how TVA land could be used to meet local and regional needs. The third question is designed to build on the results of the first two questions to produce a reservoir-specific picture of acceptable land uses.

The questions will be dealt with one at a time. After all three questions are addressed, each small group will be asked to choose a spokesperson to summarize the group discussion in a final session for all participants..

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS?

The information generated in the small groups at the public workshops will be compiled and a report of the results of all the workshops will be sent back to the participants. The report gives you a chance to check that we correctly recorded your comments.

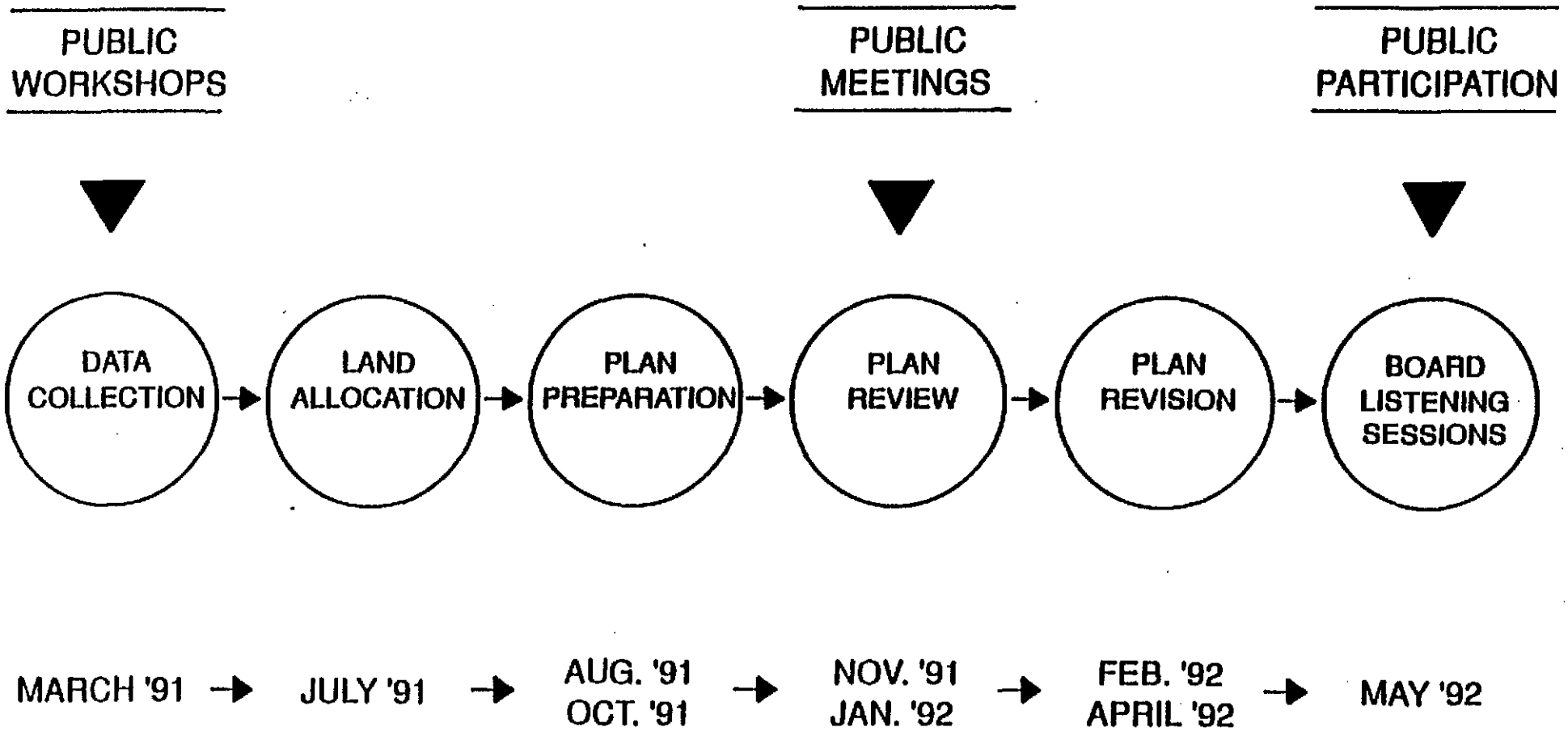
TVA's planning staff will use the public comments, along with other information about natural resources, socioeconomic conditions, adjacent land uses, and existing local and regional plans, to identify suitable uses for TVA's reservoir land. The draft plan showing the uses identified will be distributed for public review (see figure 1). You will have several weeks to comment by mail or you may comment in person at a second round of public meetings to be held for that purpose. The staff will consider all comments about the draft plan, make changes as appropriate, and send the public a report on any recommended changes to the draft plan. Following public review, the TVA Board of Directors has the option of holding a listening session in the reservoir area regarding specific issues or public concerns.

Finally, the planning staff will make any further revisions and submit the plan to the Board for formal approval at an open Board meeting. Copies of the final plan will be available upon request.

RLP-4451L

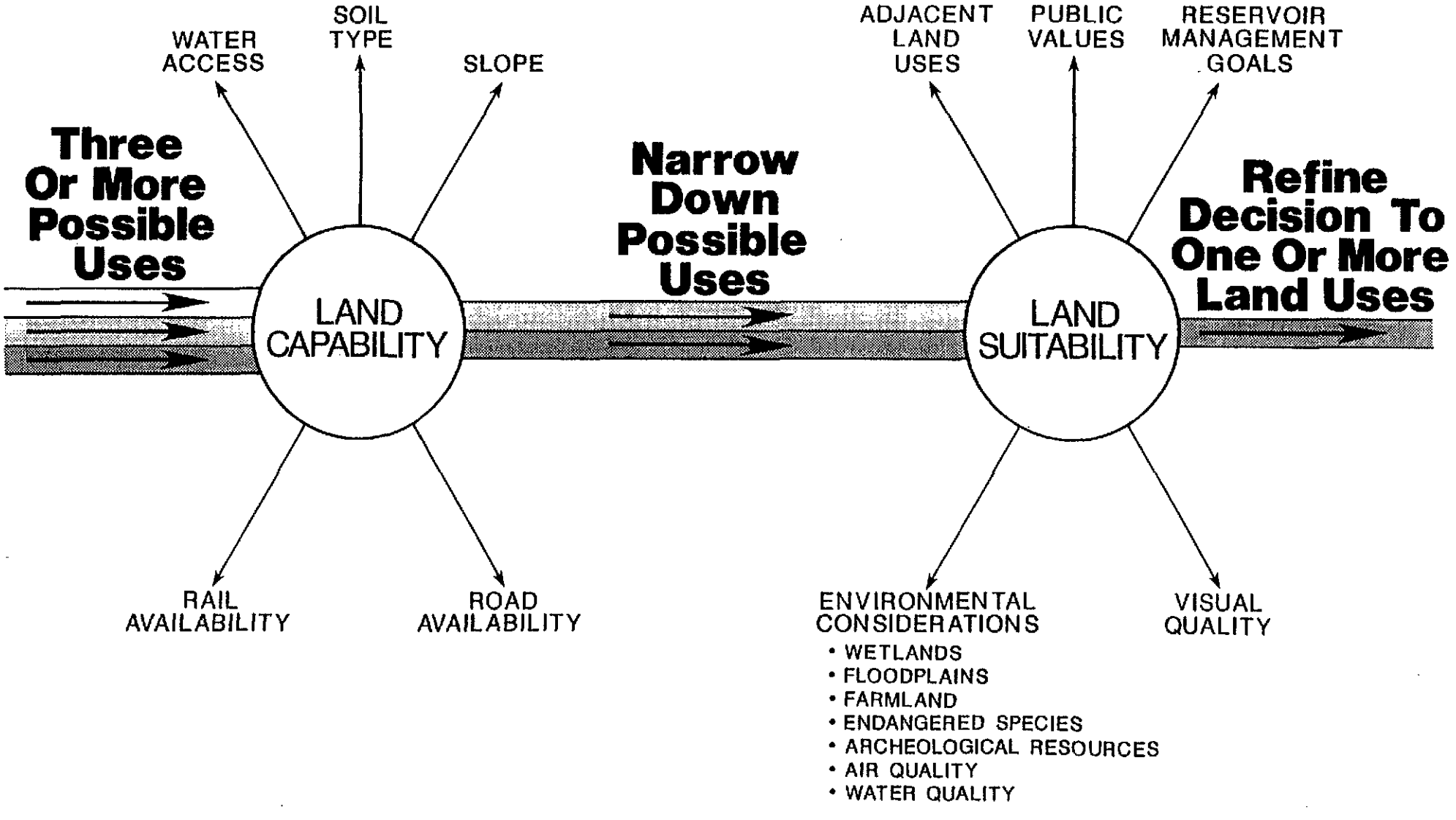
FIGURE 1

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



LAND ALLOCATION PROCESS

(LAND CAPABILITY + LAND SUITABILITY = LAND USE)



WHEELER RESERVOIR FACTSHEET

Reservoir Highlights

- Wheeler is the seventh and last mainstream reservoir to come under the agency's new reservoir planning process. The lake was impounded in 1936, is approximately 67,000 acres in size, with 1,063 miles of shoreline, and is 74 miles long.

- TVA acquired approximately 104,000 acres for the reservoir project in 1933. Today, TVA is the steward for approximately 28,000 acres of fee-owned land above full pool elevation 556. Of this total, 13,000 acres (lands uncommitted to any specific long-term use) will be addressed in the Wheeler planning process.

- The balance of the 104,000 acres is broken down as follows:

  - Approximately 50,000 acres under the lake
  - Approximately 16,000 acres of land sold for commercial, industrial, and residential uses
  - Approximately 10,000 acres of land transferred to other agencies, i.e., state, federal, local

- Lower Segment - Private residential development has occurred along the lower portion of the reservoir and along the Elk River, the largest tributary on the reservoir. Joe Wheeler State Park is located on both the north and south sides of the lake near Wheeler Dam. Limestone County Park near Lucy's Branch Marina/Resort is on the north bank upstream from the Elk. The remaining TVA retained lands adjacent to the reservoir within this lower segment are generally in forestry or agricultural production.

- Middle Segment - The central portion of the reservoir near Decatur represents the largest population center and the greatest concentration of industrial development throughout the reservoir. The newest industrial complex, Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority, is also located west and downstream of the city. The Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, two state wildlife management areas (Swan Creek and Mallard/Fox Creek) and Decatur Boat Harbor are located within this reach of the river. TVA's Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and two TVA public recreation areas are also located in this middle segment. Point Mallard Municipal Park is located east of Decatur at the confluence of Flint Creek and Wheeler Reservoir.

- Upper Segment - The upper third of Wheeler Reservoir is generally composed of a narrow strip of undeveloped TVA fee-owned land with much of the rural backlying private property being used for cattle production and agriculture. Major tributaries within this section of the reservoir are Cataco Creek, Flint River, and Paint Rock River. The only significant development along this upper reach includes the U. S. Army Redstone Arsenal, and the Huntsville-Madison County Marina/Recreation Area, and Madison County Boat Harbor.

The Planning Process

- This new planning process is a progressive approach aimed at better management of reservoir resources through detailed computer analysis of land capabilities and suitabilities with an emphasis on public participation.

- The Land Management Planning process considers the land's physical CAPABILITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS (i.e., slope, soil type, access) as did the agency's earlier reservoir land planning efforts, formerly Reservoir Forecast System. One of the prime differences is a more intense focus on the land use SUITABILITY (i.e., public values, environmental considerations, adjacent land uses, reservoir management goals, etc.).

- Reasons for changing the planning approach:

  1) Increased pressure on a limited land base
  2) Environmental laws, regulations, and agency policies that emphasize environmentally sound decisionmaking
  3) Recognition of the importance of public participation in planning the way TVA land will be used.
  4) Awareness of the impact TVA land uses can have on adjacent privately owned property
  5) The availability of computer technology capable of quickly analyzing land characteristics
  6) Maintaining a constantly changing inventory of reservoir information

- Steps in the planning process (see figure 1):

  1) Collection of land resource data and public opinion (public workshops)
  2) TVA multidiscipline planning team decides on land use allocations
  3) Preparation of draft plan
  4) Public review of draft plan (public meetings)
  5) Revisions of draft plan
  6) Board listening session (as needed)
  7) TVA Board approval
  8) Publication of final plan

- Benefits:

  1) Incorporates public needs and values into TVA's decisionmaking
  2) Gives adjoining property owners a clear statement of how TVA intends to manage its lands
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  4) Clearly identifies sites for different developmental purposes, i.e., recreation, industry, wildlife, etc.
  5) Speeds handling of requests for use of TVA land
  6) Minimizes conflicting land uses

- Contact: Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader, (615)632-1550

RLP-4491L

Spencer D. Boardman
Project Leader, Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning

February 28, 1991

Mr. Charles Terry
Superintendent
Courtland Electric Department
Courtland, Alabama 35618

Dear Mr. Terry:

TVA needs your help in planning for the future of 13,000 acres of public lands around Wheeler Reservoir. You are invited to attend one of the six informational meetings to be held at the following locations.

County	City	Location	Time (CST)	Date
Morgan	Decatur	Decatur Courthouse Emergency Management Auditorium (Basement level) 302 Lee Street (351-4737)	7:30 a.m.	March 5
Limestone	Athens	Welcome Inn Highway 31 & 72 (232-6944)	7:30 a.m.	March 6
Marshall	Guntersville	Reids Restaurant Highway 431 (582-3162)	7:00 a.m.	March 7
Madison	Huntsville	Downtown Hilton Corner Monroe and Williams Avenue (533-1400)	7:30 a.m.	March 8
Lawrence	Moulton	Lawrence County Ag. Center Highway 157 (974-0663)	2:00 p.m.	March 11
Lauderdale	Florence	Executive Inn Meeting Room 504 S. Court Street (766-2331)	7:30 a.m.	March 12

TVA's 30-minute agenda will offer an announcement of the upcoming public workshops scheduled for March 19, 20, and 21. A brief description of the planning process, related objectives, and the importance of public involvement will also be presented.

Light refreshements will be provided to start the day. Please make an effort to attend and feel free to invite an interested party.

Sincerely,

Spencer D. Boardman

SDB:CJW
cc: C. E. Ayers, MR 2C-C
R. L. Curtis, Jr., NRB 1A-N
W. E. Smith, OSA 1A-M
Files, LR, FOR 1A-N

RLP-4548L(3-29)

The attached letter was sent to the following persons:

Mr. Charles Terry
Superintendent
Courtland Electric Department
Courtland, Alabama 35618

Mr. Joe V. Bunch
General Manager
Arab Electric Cooperative
Arab, Alabama 35016

Mr. T. T. Craven
General Manager
Athens Electric Cooperative
Athens, Alabama 35611

Mr. James W. Stewart
Manager
Marshall-DeKalb Electric Cooperative
Boaz, Alabama 35957

Mr. Rickey Thomas
Manager
Electric Board
Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662

Mr. Edward E. Cobb
President
City of Huntsville Utilities
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

Mr. J. Howard McClanahan
Manager
Florence Electricity Department
Florence, Alabama 35631

Mr. Kenneth Sharrott
Manager
Hartselle Electric Board
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Mr. George H. Godwin, Jr.
General Manager
City of Decatur Utilities
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. Gary D. Scroggins
Manager
Guntersville Electric Board
Guntersville, Alabama 35976

Mr. Dennis Beard
Manager
Joe Wheeler Electric Membership Corp.
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Mr. Jimmy L. Barnett
General Manager
Sheffield Utilities
Sheffield, Alabama 35660

Mr. Charles P. Ricks
Manager
Tuscumbia Electricity Department
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674

RLP4548L

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATING GROUPS

IN THE 6 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS FOLLOWED BY A COMPLETE LISTING OF THE 60 PARTICIPANTS

Information Meetings

Summary Of Participating Groups

Type of Group	Number of Groups
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	1
CITY OR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSIONS	6
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS/COGS	2
REGIONAL OR STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS	1
INDUSTRIAL/RURAL DEVELOPMENT GROUPS	5
AG. EXTENSION/RURAL DEVELOPMENT GROUPS	2
TOURISM COUNCILS/ASSOCIATIONS	1
ENVIRONMENTAL COALITIONS	2
LOCAL OFFICIALS (MAYORS, COUNTY EXECUTIVES CITY MANAGERS, etc.)	4
FEDERAL/STATE CONGRESSIONAL FIELD STAFFS	3
TVA STAFF	1
COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION	3
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	2
UTILITIES	1
NEWS MEDIA	3
TOTAL	**37**

Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan

1991 Public Information Meetings
ATTENDANCE LIST

County: Morgan
Location: Decatur Courthouse, Decatur, AL
Date: March 5, 1991

North Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG)	C. Ronald Matthews
Morgan County Commission Larry Bennich	Willa C. Dockery
North Alabama Industrial Development Association (NAIDA)	Michael D. Roberts
City of Decatur	Bill Dukes
Alabama Senate	D. Ray Campbell
Point Mallard Park	Julian R. Walker
Morgan County Industrial Development Association	Tommy E. Roberts
Decatur Transit, Inc.	Terry Rick
Decatur Daily	Ken Retherford

County: Limestone County
Location: Welcome Inn, Athens, AL
Date: March 6, 1991

Limestone County Commission	John C. Black Spencer Black
ASCS/Ducks Unlimited/Alabama Wildlife Federation	Danny F. Crawford
Athens-Limestone Development Association	Charlie Durham
US Congressman Bud Cramer	Gail W. Smith
TVA	Carol Ayers

1991 Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan Information Meetings

County: Marshall
Location: Reids Restaurant, Guntersville, AL
Date: March 7, 1991

SOL	Leamon C. Jarmon
Citizen	John Cunningham O. Ray Hubble
Marshall County Commission	Larry A. Flack Neal Fossett Dwight Kelley
City of Guntersville	Robert Kelly
Tennessee Valley Authority	Carol E. Ayers
Advertiser-Gleam	Sam Harvey

County: Madison
Location: Downtown Hilton, Huntsville, AL
Date: March 8, 1991

Madison County Commission	Howard Baites Mike Gillespie Tillman Hill
Huntsville Convention and Visitors Bureau	Ruthanne Ortman
Huntsville Utilities	Roy G. Russell
AL Development Office, Dept. of Econ. and Community Affairs	Barbara A. Saunders

County: Lawrence
Location: Agriculture Center, Moulton, AL
Date: March 11, 1991

Lawrence County Commission	Joan Y. Lang Larry W. LouAllen Billy Cameron Benjamin A. Rose Floyd Shankle

1991 Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan Information Meetings

Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce	Frances L. Blankenship Edwin T. Clapp Tony Q. Lentz
US Congressman Bud Cramer	Gail W. Smith
Agricultural Extension Service	James E. Pinion
USDA - ASCS	Johnny B. Raby
City of Courtland	Rudolph W. McCarley
TVA	Carol Ayers
Citizen	Billy H. Frost Mose Jones, Jr.

County: Lauderdale
Location: Executive Inn, Florence, Florence
Date: March 12, 1991

The First National Bank of Florence	Charles L. Peery H. Doug Murphy
The SouthTrust Bank/Shoals Beautiful Committee	Goodloe (Bud) Pride, Jr.
State Representative	James H. Hamilton
Railroad Authority	Emory F. Behel
Florence-Lauderdale County Port Authority	Gerald B. (Tuffy) Hudson John D. Martin
North Alabama Council of Local Governments (NACOLG)	Richard E. Holst Sam Minor
Shoals Industrial Development Authority	Susie S. Heird
Florence-Lauderdale Industrial Expansion Committee	Byron B. Bower
Lauderdale County Commission	Bobby S. McCormick
Times Daily Newspaper	Shelby W. Hoskins

1991 Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan Information Meetings

Citizen	Leon A. McCrary William Hanberry
TVA	Carol Ayers

Mailed to the following County Commissioners:

The Honorable Larry Bennich
Chairman, Morgan County Commission
P. O. Box 668
Decatur, Alabama 35602

The Honorable John C. Black
Chairman, Limestone County Commission
310 West Washington Street
Athens Alabama 35611

The Honorable Neal Fossett
Chairman, Marshall County Commission
P.O. Box 610
Guntersville, Alabama 35967

The Honorable Mike Giliespie
Chairman, Madison County Commission
Madison County Courthouse
Courthouse Square, Seventh Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

The Honorable William L. Hanberry
Chairman, Lauderdale County Commission
P.O. Box 1059
Florence, Alabama 35631

The Honorable Mose Jones, Jr.
750 Main Street, Courthouse Annex
Moulton, Alabama 35650

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING HANDOUT PACKAGE

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOPS - MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULES

MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR:

(1) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Tuesday, March 19, at Clements High School Cafeteria, Athens, Alabama, Phone (205) 729-6564

(2) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Wednesday, March 20, at Huntsville High School Library, Huntsville, Alabama, Phone (205) 532-4870

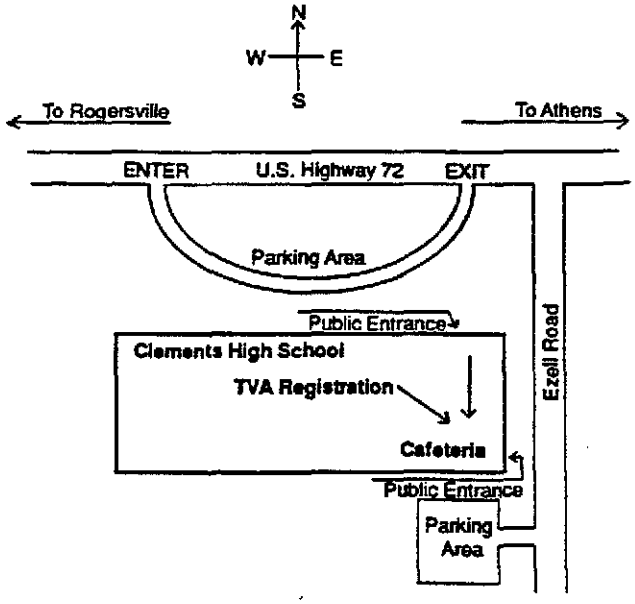
(3) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Thursday, March 21, at Oak Park Middle School Auditorium, in Decatur, Tennessee, Phone (205) 552-3035

TENTATIVE AGENDA

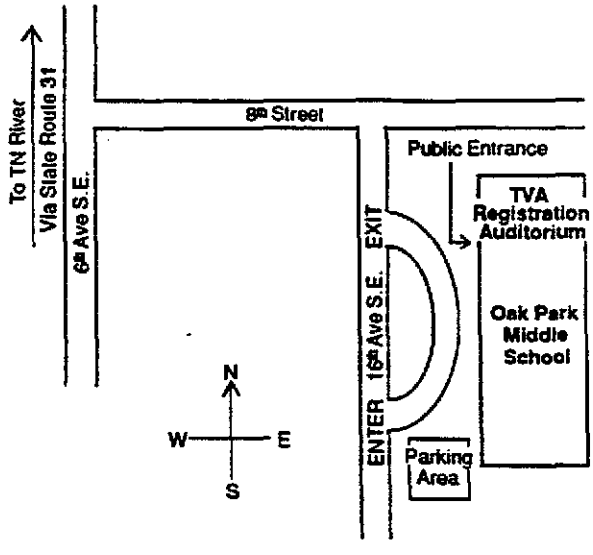
7:00 p. m. - 7:15 p.m.	Registration
7:15 p. m. - 7:30 p.m.	Introduction by Spencer Boardman, Project Leader of the Wheeler Reservoir Planning Project
7:30 p. m. - 7:45 p.m.	Break Up In Small Group Meeting Areas
7:45 p. m. - 8:30 p.m.	Small group discussions of first questions: WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT WHEELER RESERVOIR?
8:30 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.	Break
8:40 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Small group discussion of second question: WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF TVA LAND ON WHEELER RESERVOIR WOULD INCREASE ITS VALUE TO YOU?
9:00 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.	Small group discussions of third question: WHAT SHOULD THE SHORELAND OF WHEELER RESERVOIR LOOK LIKE IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE TEN YEARS FROM NOW?
9:20 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.	Reassemble into main meeting area
9:25 p.m. - 9:55 p.m.	Presentations by representatives from each small group
10:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Large group general question and answer opportunity
10:30 p.m.	Meeting Adjourned

RLP-4450L

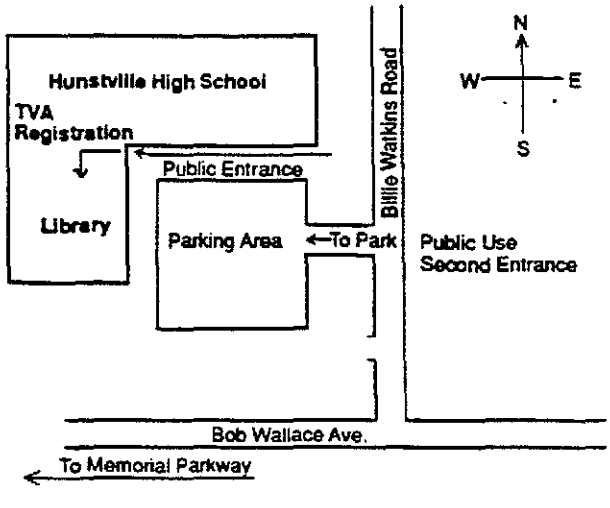
CLEMENTS PUBLIC WORKSHOP



DECATUR PUBLIC WORKSHOP



HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC WORKSHOP



WHEELER LANDS PLANNING
PLANNING PROCESS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT IS THE WHEELER RESERVOIR PLANNING PROJECT?

Wheeler reservoir is the last of the nine mainstream reservoirs to undergo TVA's comprehensive lands planning effort. The purpose of this TVA project is to develop a management plan--a guide for the future--for approximately 13,000 acres of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir. The plan will streamline TVA's handling of future requests for use of the land and allow the agency to better meet its public land management responsibilities.

TVA manages land for recreation, forestry, wildlife, cultural resources, industrial development, navigation, and agriculture, among other uses. In this planning project, careful consideration is given to <u>all</u> these possible uses of land. Public comment and analysis by TVA staff are combined with extensive local and regional information to identify the best uses for TVA land. Specific tracts of TVA land are designated for one or more uses to be managed by TVA or other appropriate entities.

Plans have already been completed for six TVA reservoirs (Pickwick, Guntersville, Kentucky, Watts Bar, Chickamauga, and Nickajack). Plans will eventually be completed for selected tributary reservoirs like Tellico, Norris, Melton Hill, and others. Upon completion, each plan will direct TVA's land administration and management activities for up to 10 years, after which it will be evaluated and updated, if necessary. The remaining two mainstream reservoirs (Fort Loudoun and Wilson) are not candidates for comprehensive plans because TVA's public land ownership is limited, making it not feasible to undertake major land management planning projects like Wheeler.

WHAT LAND IS INCLUDED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

This project deals only with TVA land that has not been committed or developed for other uses. It excludes the land around TVA power plants and the marginal strip (shoreland subject to outstanding or easement rights retained by third parties).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS?

The public workshops are the first and most important arena for public discussion of land use on Wheeler Reservoir. The workshops are held early in the planning process so public needs, desires, and concerns can be expressed and considered <u>before</u> uses are identified for TVA land.

Public involvement is essential because the use and management of specific tracts of TVA land can affect the use of private land around it. Furthermore, the use of TVA land in general can affect the whole region. As citizens of the reservoir area or the Tennessee Valley region, you will be asked to comment on how you think TVA's public lands should be used and managed. Your comments and suggestions <u>will be important</u> in determining the final outcome of the plan.

HOW WILL THE WORKSHOPS BE CONDUCTED?

Most of the meeting time will be spent in small group discussions. We have found that these small groups give everyone a better chance to be heard. A leader will be assigned to each group to encourage discussion, ensure that everyone has an opportunity to provide input, record comments, and maintain the time schedule.

The leader will ask the group to respond to three questions:

1. WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT WHEELER RESERVOIR?

2. WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF TVA LAND ON WHEELER RESERVOIR WOULD INCREASE ITS VALUE TO YOU?

3. WHAT SHOULD THE SHORELAND OF WHEELER RESERVOIR LOOK LIKE IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

In considering the first two questions, think of the ways you use the reservoir and how TVA land could be used to meet local and regional needs. The third question is designed to build on the results of the first two questions to produce a reservoir-specific picture of acceptable land uses.

The questions will be dealt with one at a time. After all three questions are addressed, each small group will be asked to choose a spokesperson to summarize the group discussion in a final session for all participants..

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS?

The information generated in the small groups at the public workshops will be compiled and a report of the results of all the workshops will be sent back to the participants. The report gives you a chance to check that we correctly recorded your comments.

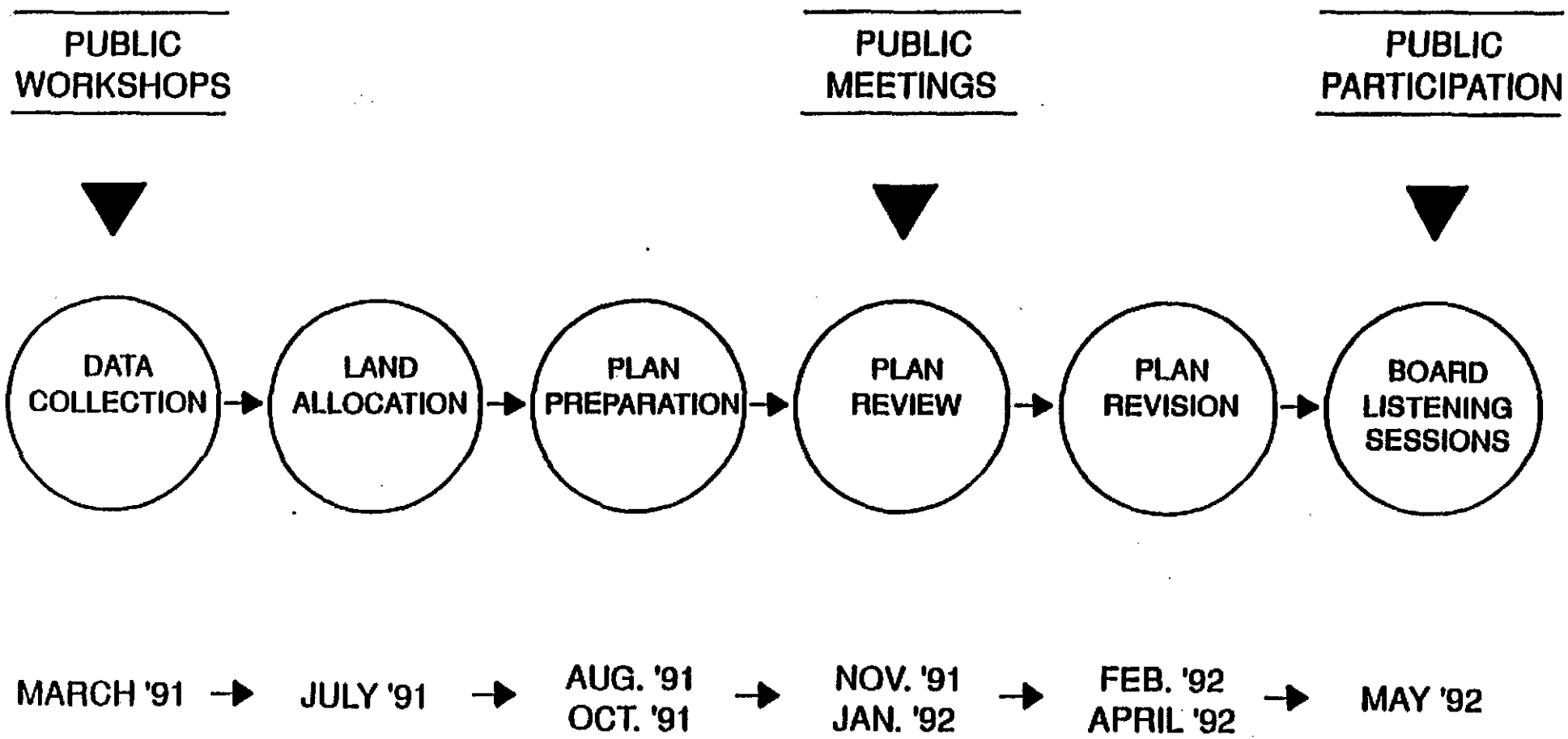
TVA's planning staff will use the public comments, along with other information about natural resources, socioeconomic conditions, adjacent land uses, and existing local and regional plans, to identify suitable uses for TVA's reservoir land. The draft plan showing the uses identified will be distributed for public review (see figure 1). You will have several weeks to comment by mail or you may comment in person at a second round of public meetings to be held for that purpose. The staff will consider all comments about the draft plan, make changes as appropriate, and send the public a report on any recommended changes to the draft plan. Following public review, the TVA Board of Directors has the option of holding a listening session in the reservoir area regarding specific issues or public concerns.

Finally, the planning staff will make any further revisions and submit the plan to the Board for formal approval at an open Board meeting. Copies of the final plan will be available upon request.

RLP-4451L

FIGURE 1

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



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- Steps in the planning process (see figure 1):

  1) Collection of land resource data and public opinion (public workshops)
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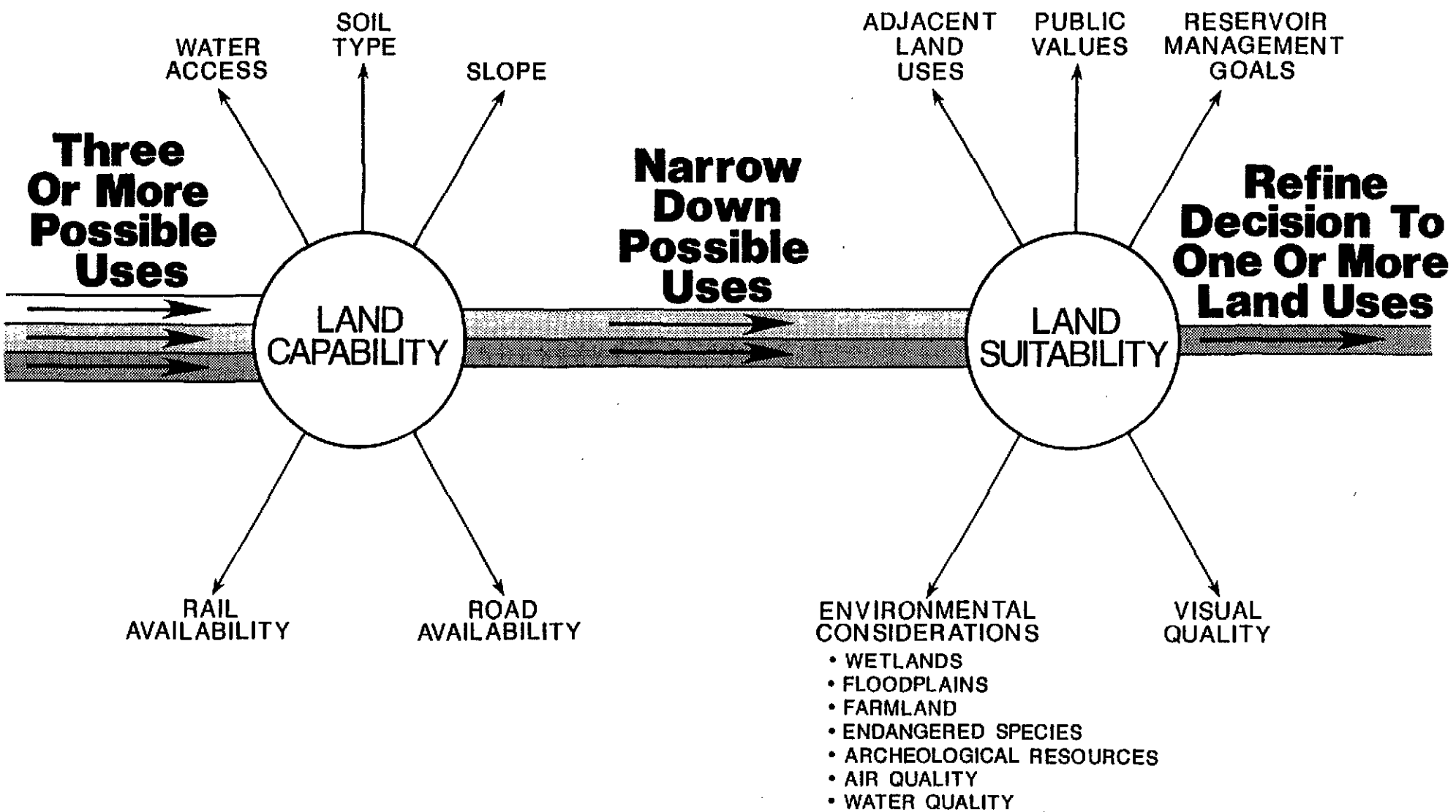
- Contact: Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader, (615)632-1550

RLP-4491L

LAND ALLOCATION PROCESS

(LAND CAPABILITY + LAND SUITABILITY = LAND USE)



WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendix A: Public Participation

Peer Agency and Focused Interview Processes

Section IV

Peer Agency and Focused Interview Processes

Introduction

In addition to the general information meetings, members of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Planning Core Team met with a number of targeted groups and individuals in order to help secure more detail about a broader range of ideas and concerns related to the reservoir land and associated resources. These meetings fell into two categories:

- Peer Agency Meeting with those having similar interest and concerns connected to the management of public lands. The Peer Agency Meeting and later peer review of the draft plan review replaces the former A-95 intergovernmental review process.

- Focused Interviews with those individuals or organizations who have a vested interest in how lands will be developed for specific uses, e.g. industrial, commercial, residential, recreational.

Peer Agency meetings and focused interviews were valuable because they broadened the Core Team's idea of how people use the reservoir and what their needs are. The input from these sessions was considered, along with the information collected from other public forums, in developing the goals and objectives for the Wheeler Land Management Plan.

Section IV contains:

- An overview of the focused interview process
- Confirmation letter for peer agency meeting
- An overview of the Peer Agency Meeting
- A summary of the Peer Agency Meeting notes

FOCUSED INTERVIEW PROCESS

Focused Interview Process

Prior to the Public Workshops, the Wheeler Planning Team corresponded with or interviewed key individuals, organizations, agencies, and groups, including:

Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments (NACOG)	Muscle Shoals
Industrial Development Association, Inc.	Morgan County
North Alabama Industrial Development Association, Inc. (NAIDA)	Decatur
Alabama 10th Congressional District	Huntsville
Alabama State Senate	Huntsville
U.S. Senate Alabama	Tuscumbia
Rehabilitation Center, Inc.	Decatur
Florence Port Authority	Lauderdale County
Kiwanis Club	Decatur
North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments	Decatur
Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments	Huntsville
Amoco Chemical Company	Decatur
Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc.	Scottsboro
Decatur Civitan Club	Decatur
County Commissioners	Morgan, Marshall, Madison, Lawrence, Limestone, Lauderdale
Chambers of Commerce	Morgan, Marshall, Madison, Lawrence, Limestone, Lauderdale

These contacts provided the planning team with useful information identifying regional and local land needs related to navigational facilities, industrial sites, community growth patterns, transportation expansion plans, environmental quality and other development components.

CONFIRMATION LETTER

FOR THE PEER AGENCY MEETING AT WHEELER WILDLIFE REFUGE VISITOR CENTER, MARCH 20, 1991

(attended by 8 Peer Agencies)

Sample Letter

Spencer D. Boardman
Project Leader, Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning

March 7, 1991

Mr. Jim McCullough
Area Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
Room 204, Federal Building
400 Wells Street
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Dear Mr. McCullough:

This is to confirm our telephone conversation regarding the meeting with you and other land resource managers at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20.

Wheeler is the seventh reservoir to be considered under the Agency's new reservoir planning process. TVA is initiating the development of a land management plan for approximately 13,000 acres of TVA fee owned land. We are interested in listening to your comments regarding the following:

1. From a resource manager's view point, what are the top three reservoir issues that should be addressed over the next ten years?

2. From your agency's point of view, how would you like TVA to manage its lands differently?

Please plan to attend this meeting because your comments, combined with other public input, will be used in the development of TVA's Wheeler Land Management Plan goals and objectives. Thank you for your cooperation and willingness to participate.

Sincerely,

Spencer D. Boardman

SDB:CJW
cc: R. L. Curtis, Jr., NRB 1A-N
Files, LR, FOR 1A-N

RLP-4619L

The attached letter was sent to the following persons:

Mr. Jim McCullough
Area Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
Room 204, Federal Building
400 Wells Street
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Mr. George Miller, Agent
ASCS Office
P.O. Box 31
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

Mr. Jerry Holmes, Agent
ASCS Office
1204 Gunter Street
Guntersville, Alabama 35976

Mr. Doyle Dutton, Agent
ASCS Office
P.O. Box 1105
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Mr. Johnny Raby, Agent
ASCS Office
13075 Alabama Highway 157
Suite 3
Moulton, Alabama 35650

Mr. Danny Crawford, Agent
ASCS Office
711 East Hobbs Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

Mr. Charles M. Woodfin, Agent
ASCS Office
P.O. Box 1056
Florence, Alabama 35631

Mr. Tuck Stone
Refuge Manager
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Route 4
P.O. Box 250
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Mr. Frank Dukes
Assistant Manager
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Route 4
P.O. Box 250
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Mr. Harvey Fowler
Public Use Specialist
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Route 4
P.O. Box 250
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Mr. Buddy English
District Biologist
Alabama Game and Fish Division
Route 1, Box 76
Tanner, Alabama 35671

Mr. Dudley White
Alabama Game and Fish Division
Route 1, Box 76
Tanner, Alabama 35671

Mr. Ray Tosado
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Western Regulatory Field Office
Federal Building
400 Wells Street, NE
Decatur, Alabama 35601-1951

Commander
U.S. Army Missile Command
Attn: Office AMSMI-RA-EH-MP (Mr. Bill Schroder)
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35898-5400

Commander
U.S. Army Missile Command
Attn: Office AMSMI-RA-EH-MP (Mr. Sam Field)
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35898-5400

Commander
U.S. Army Missile Command
Attn: Office AMSMI-RA-EH-MP (Mr. Jessy Horton)
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35898-5400

RLP-4619L

PEER AGENCY MEETING OVERVIEW

Peer Agency Meeting Overview

TVA invited peer agencies who experience similar land management concerns and who deal with issues relating to resource protection and public use to a meeting at the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center on March 20, 1991. The purpose of the meeting was to open a dialogue on land use management and, more specifically, to get input on the following two questions:

1. From a resource manager's view point, what are the top three reservoir issues that should be addressed over the next ten years?

2. From your agency's point of view, how would you like TVA to manage its lands differently?

The predominant answers to Question 1 were:

- Water quality
- Shoreline erosion
- Wetlands preservation

The response to Question 2 addressed a variety of concerns, including:

- Enhanced recreational use
- Clarification and standardization of TVA's land use policy for all TVA shoreline and recreation areas in each state
- Improved communication between TVA and the public
- Limited development of shoreline
- Increased access points to lakes and rivers
- More green space
- Increased prevention of dumping/pollution of TVA lands
- Improved weed control
- Better enforcement of TVA polices

Participating Peer Agencies

U.S. Forest And Wildlife Service (Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge)
U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers (USACE)
U.S. Army Missile Command (Redstone Arsenal)
U.S. Agricultural Stabilization And Conservation Service (ASCS)
U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS)
State Dept. Of Natural Resources, State Parks Division (Joe Wheeler State Park)
Alabama Department Of Environmental Management (ADEM)
Alabama Department Of Motor Vehicle Safety

SUMMARY OF PEER AGENCY MEETING NOTES

MARCH 20, 1991

WHEELER WILDLIFE REFUGE VISITOR CENTER,

Summary
Peer Agency Meeting Notes
March 20, 1991

QUESTION 1 - FROM A RESOURCE MANAGER'S VIEWPOINT, WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE RESERVOIR ISSUES THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS?

Redstone

Schroder
Horton

- Confused about management of TVA timber, pasture, and wetlands on Redstone Arsenal. Responsibilities need to be clarified.
- Redstone would like to manage timber, archeological resources and riverbank erosion.

Wheeler Refuge

Stone

- Problems with water quality around refuge due to surrounding uses.
- Water quality is an issue. TVA only does weed control on request. Some measures may conflict with other uses.
- There are conflicts in recreational uses. The public doesn't understand what is allowed on the refuge versus all TVA land.
- Streambank erosion is a problem.

State Wildlife Management Areas

White

- Water quality. Aquatic habitat management impacts hunting.
- Encroaching development, e.g. Saginaw developed up to the hunting area. Now, complaints about shot falling over the fence, pipelines, etc. Its hard to protect the integrity of the area.
- Would like to see development stopped on all remaining TVA lands. Favors area for unstructured outdoor activity (informal camping, shooting, etc.)

Alabama Game and Fish

English

- Water Quality - pollution and weeds. Quality has gone down considerably in the last 10 years. Needs better enforcement.
- Protection of wildlife habitat.
- Availability and accessibility. Don't tie up land for industry, etc. Make land open space for the public.

ASCS

- Water Quality - agriculture is a problem. Need to go out, away from the shoreline, out to the tributaries. Look at non-point source pollution.
- Streambank erosion, e.g. Cotaco Creek, Lacy Springs area. TVA being blamed for trees falling in creek. Some homes have flooded.
- TVA may want to rescind agricultural licenses and turn land back to forest management to reduce erosion.

QUESTION 1, Continued

- TVA needs to help (monetarily or otherwise) farmers to comply with the Farm Bill. By 1994, agricultural lands will not be desirable because they will not be in compliance and cannot get commodity assistance.

Miller

- Erosion problem, e.g. Flint Creek. Runoff is filling up reservoir with topsoil from farms. Need an educational process with all parties cooperating. Need to look at whether topsoil can be taken out of the reservoir (dredged) and redistributed. Also need to look at terraces, buffer zones, and cleaning out creeks.

Crawford

- More cooperation and information exchange on agricultural-related issues.
- Area on Elk River west of the fish hatchery is marginal and highly erodible. Needs to be in pasture or forest.

AG&F

Hooper

- Wheeler has highly desirable fisheries.
- Water quality is a problem. The state has regulatory authority.
- Erosion—agricultural cattle in the water. All need to be controlled to boost water quality.
- Need to provide more access to the lake, especially in high-use areas.
- Develop more fish piers and other structures along TVA land. More ramps in high use areas.

Crawford

- Look at access to Round Creek Island. There is no real place to tie up.

USACE

Mann

- Water quality - wetlands protection (USACE is the regulator for 404 permits).
- Sedimentation from construction in the upper watershed, e.g. West Flint Creek where thirty acres of wetland has been impacted. Would like to see more flood zone management.
- Need a shoreline management plan that will protect a portion of the area for open space, visual, and recreation.
- More intense effort to hold the line on diminishing resources, e.g. Mallard Fox Creek lost to industrial development. Developers should mitigate by helping provide other opportunities.

QUESTION 2 - FROM YOUR AGENCY'S POINT OF VIEW, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TVA TO MANAGE ITS LAND DIFFERENTLY?

USACE

Mann

- What is TVA policy on land sales? Need to preserve/maintain current levels of open land. Limit shoreline development to unspoiled public use.

ASCS

Crawford
Raby

- Manage TVA land to reduce erosion and improve water quality. Get agencies linked to prevent erosion.
- Need buffer strips between TVA and backlying land.
- Need jobs for the young—don't completely lock out industry.

AG&F

Hooper

- Maintain present land with right of access and public use. May lease to other agencies.
- Emphasis toward water quality and wildlife habitat.

English

- Maintain property at current level for public use. There is not that much left.
- Have asked for a commitment form TVA regarding long-term tenure for wildlife management on Mallard-Fox Creek. A plan was submitted three years ago, but TVA has not responded. Is the proposal accepted or rejected?

White

- Public green space is important.
- Need to look at all of the drainage. Let marginal land be marginal land—turn it over to wildlife and forest management.

ASCS

Dutton

- Cooperate with agricultural licensees to bring farmland into compliance with the Agricultural Act before 1994. Should consider cutting the rent to help the farmer.

Miller
McCullough

- Help stop erosion before it starts.
- TVA should fund users of land to better manage land.
- Marginal land should not be leased. It should be left to open space and wildlife.
- Maintain informational services
- Safety landings are needed for recreational boaters.
- Control toilet effluents from boaters. Make sure each marina has pumping facilities (now in effect). Ditto Landing and Decatur Boat Harbor are foul because of crowded conditions (boats are lined up). This can be regulated by law.

QUESTION 2, Continued

USF&WS

Stone

- Maintaining upper tributaries as wildlife management areas, etc. will help control erosion.
- Islands near Decatur should be managed by TVA or Refuge. Hunting is now allowed.
- The Land near Grindle Hole was turned back to TVA. Would like to extend management area easement designation to this property (extend present contour to include this area).
- Use electrical hookups to enforce installation of septic tanks. Also apply to other commercial ventures.

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendix A: Public Participation

Public Workshops

Section V

The Public Workshops

Introduction

Three Public Workshops were held in March 1991. Letters of invitation to these meetings were sent to over 1100 citizens, in addition to the publicity provided by the media and information about the workshops distributed at the Public Information meetings.

The workshops were designed to get specific input from the public on three questions:

- *What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?*
- What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?
- What should the shoreline of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Documentation of the results of the Public Workshops were published in August 1991 and mailed to participants for their review and comment in September 1991. Section V includes:

- Citizen letter of invitation to the public workshops
- Transmittal letter for the *Results of Public Workshop* document.
- The published document, *Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Planning, Results of Public Workshops*

CITIZEN LETTER OF INVITATION

TO THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

(Mailed to over 1100 citizens)

Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, Tennessee 37828

Spencer D. Boardman
Project Leader
Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning

February 25, 1991

Dear Citizen:

We need help in planning for the future of TVA public land on Wheeler Reservoir.

TVA is initiating a new project to develop a plan for the use and management of 13,000 acres of TVA land on the reservoir. We welcome and are interested in hearing your concerns about the management of this land. To give you an opportunity to tell us how you feel, we will be holding three public workshops in the reservoir area.

If you can attend any of the three workshops, we would be delighted. Please bring with you others who are also interested. This is an important project for TVA and for you, because the resulting plan will guide and direct the management and use of TVA lands on Wheeler Reservoir for the next ten years.

The meetings will be held on the following dates at these locations (see enclosed directions:

1) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Tuesday, March 19, at Clements High School Cafeteria, Athens, Alabama, Phone (205) 729-6564

2) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Wednesday, March 20, at Huntsville High School Library, Huntsville, Alabama, Phone (205) 532-4870

3) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Thursday, March 21, at Oak Park Middle School Auditorium, Decatur, Alabama, Phone (205) 552-3035

These will not be formal public hearings. Rather, they will be informal workshops designed to allow everyone a chance to participate in small groups and voice their personal desires and concerns about Wheeler Reservoir.

February 25, 1991

Please COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED CARD if you would like to participate in one of the meetings or if you would like to receive more information about the Wheeler Reservoir Planning project. Also, please help us to identify others who may also be interested in receiving information about this project.

Questions on the public meetings or about the Wheeler project should be directed to me, or Connie Woosley of our staff, at (615) 632-1550.

Sincerely,

Spencer D. Boardman

Spencer D. Boardman

Enclosures

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOPS - MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULES

MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR:

(1) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Tuesday, March 19, at Clements High School Cafeteria, Athens, Alabama, Phone (205) 729-6564

(2) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Wednesday, March 20, at Huntsville High School Library, Huntsville, Alabama, Phone (205) 532-4870

(3) 7:00 p.m. (CST) - Thursday, March 21, at Oak Park Middle School Auditorium, in Decatur, Tennessee, Phone (205) 552-3035

TENTATIVE AGENDA

7:00 p. m. - 7:15 p.m.	Registration
7:15 p. m. - 7:30 p.m.	Introduction by Spencer Boardman, Project Leader of the Wheeler Reservoir Planning Project
7:30 p. m. - 7:45 p.m.	Break Up In Small Group Meeting Areas
7:45 p. m. - 8:30 p.m.	Small group discussions of first questions: WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT WHEELER RESERVOIR?
8:30 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.	Break
8:40 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Small group discussion of second question: WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF TVA LAND ON WHEELER RESERVOIR WOULD INCREASE ITS VALUE TO YOU?
9:00 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.	Small group discussions of third question: WHAT SHOULD THE SHORELAND OF WHEELER RESERVOIR LOOK LIKE IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE TEN YEARS FROM NOW?
9:20 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.	Reassemble into main meeting area
9:25 p.m. - 9:55 p.m.	Presentations by representatives from each small group
10:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Large group general question and answer opportunity
10:30 p.m.	Meeting Adjourned

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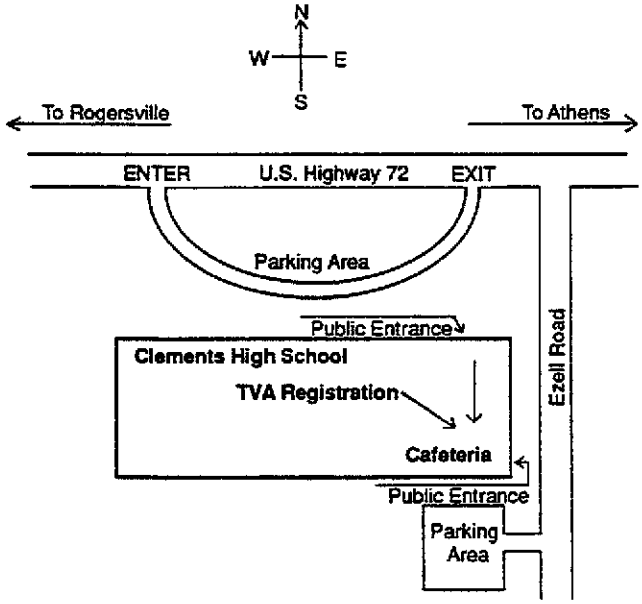
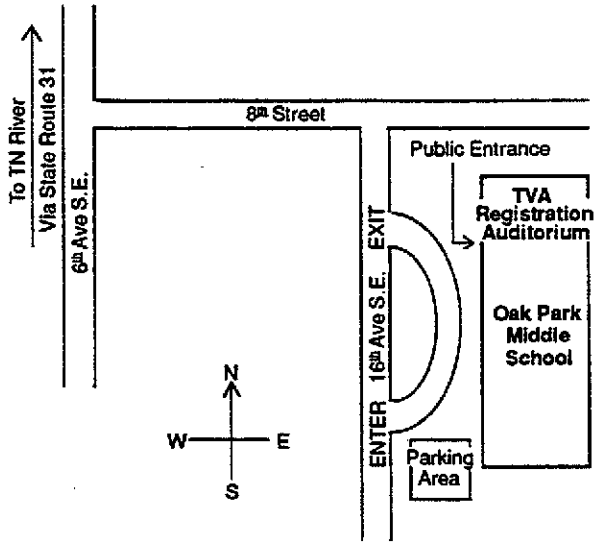
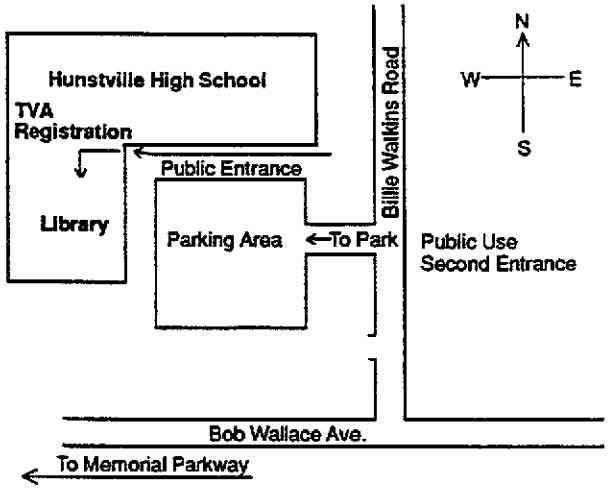
CLEMENTS PUBLIC WORKSHOP



DECATUR PUBLIC WORKSHOP



HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC WORKSHOP



TVA 15606 (IS-CRM 1-91)
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 00138 CHATTANOOGA, TN

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Tennessee Valley Authority
Property Management And Admimistration
NRB 1A-N
400 W SUMMIT HILL DRIVE
KNOXVILLE TN 37902-9924

. . . PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL TO TVA . . .

_____ YES, I am interested in participating in the public workshop at: (check location below)

_____ NO, I will not be attending a public workshop, but keep my name on the mailing list.

_____ Clements High School, HWY 72 - Athens, AL - March 19
_____ Huntsville High School, Huntsville, AL - March 20
_____ Oak Park Middle School, Decatur, AL - March 21

PRINT:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
ORGANIZATION (Optional) _____

WHEELER LANDS PLANNING
PLANNING PROCESS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT IS THE WHEELER RESERVOIR PLANNING PROJECT?

Wheeler reservoir is the last of the nine mainstream reservoirs to undergo TVA's comprehensive lands planning effort. The purpose of this TVA project is to develop a management plan--a guide for the future--for approximately 13,000 acres of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir. The plan will streamline TVA's handling of future requests for use of the land and allow the agency to better meet its public land management responsibilities.

TVA manages land for recreation, forestry, wildlife, cultural resources, industrial development, navigation, and agriculture, among other uses. In this planning project, careful consideration is given to <u>all</u> these possible uses of land. Public comment and analysis by TVA staff are combined with extensive local and regional information to identify the best uses for TVA land. Specific tracts of TVA land are designated for one or more uses to be managed by TVA or other appropriate entities.

Plans have already been completed for six TVA reservoirs (Pickwick, Guntersville, Kentucky, Watts Bar, Chickamauga, and Nickajack). Plans will eventually be completed for selected tributary reservoirs like Tellico, Norris, Melton Hill, and others. Upon completion, each plan will direct TVA's land administration and management activities for up to 10 years, after which it will be evaluated and updated, if necessary. The remaining two mainstream reservoirs (Fort Loudoun and Wilson) are not candidates for comprehensive plans because TVA's public land ownership is limited, making it not feasible to undertake major land management planning projects like Wheeler.

WHAT LAND IS INCLUDED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

This project deals only with TVA land that has not been committed or developed for other uses. It excludes the land around TVA power plants and the marginal strip (shoreland subject to outstanding or easement rights retained by third parties).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS?

The public workshops are the first and most important arena for public discussion of land use on Wheeler Reservoir. The workshops are held early in the planning process so public needs, desires, and concerns can be expressed and considered <u>before</u> uses are identified for TVA land.

Public involvement is essential because the use and management of specific tracts of TVA land can affect the use of private land around it. Furthermore, the use of TVA land in general can affect the whole region. As citizens of the reservoir area or the Tennessee Valley region, you will be asked to comment on how you think TVA's public lands should be used and managed. Your comments and suggestions <u>will be important</u> in determining the final outcome of the plan.

HOW WILL THE WORKSHOPS BE CONDUCTED?

Most of the meeting time will be spent in small group discussions. We have found that these small groups give everyone a better chance to be heard. A leader will be assigned to each group to encourage discussion, ensure that everyone has an opportunity to provide input, record comments, and maintain the time schedule.

The leader will ask the group to respond to three questions:

1. WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT WHEELER RESERVOIR?

2. WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF TVA LAND ON WHEELER RESERVOIR WOULD INCREASE ITS VALUE TO YOU?

3. WHAT SHOULD THE SHORELAND OF WHEELER RESERVOIR LOOK LIKE IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

In considering the first two questions, think of the ways you use the reservoir and how TVA land could be used to meet local and regional needs. The third question is designed to build on the results of the first two questions to produce a reservoir-specific picture of acceptable land uses.

The questions will be dealt with one at a time. After all three questions are addressed, each small group will be asked to choose a spokesperson to summarize the group discussion in a final session for all participants..

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS?

The information generated in the small groups at the public workshops will be compiled and a report of the results of all the workshops will be sent back to the participants. The report gives you a chance to check that we correctly recorded your comments.

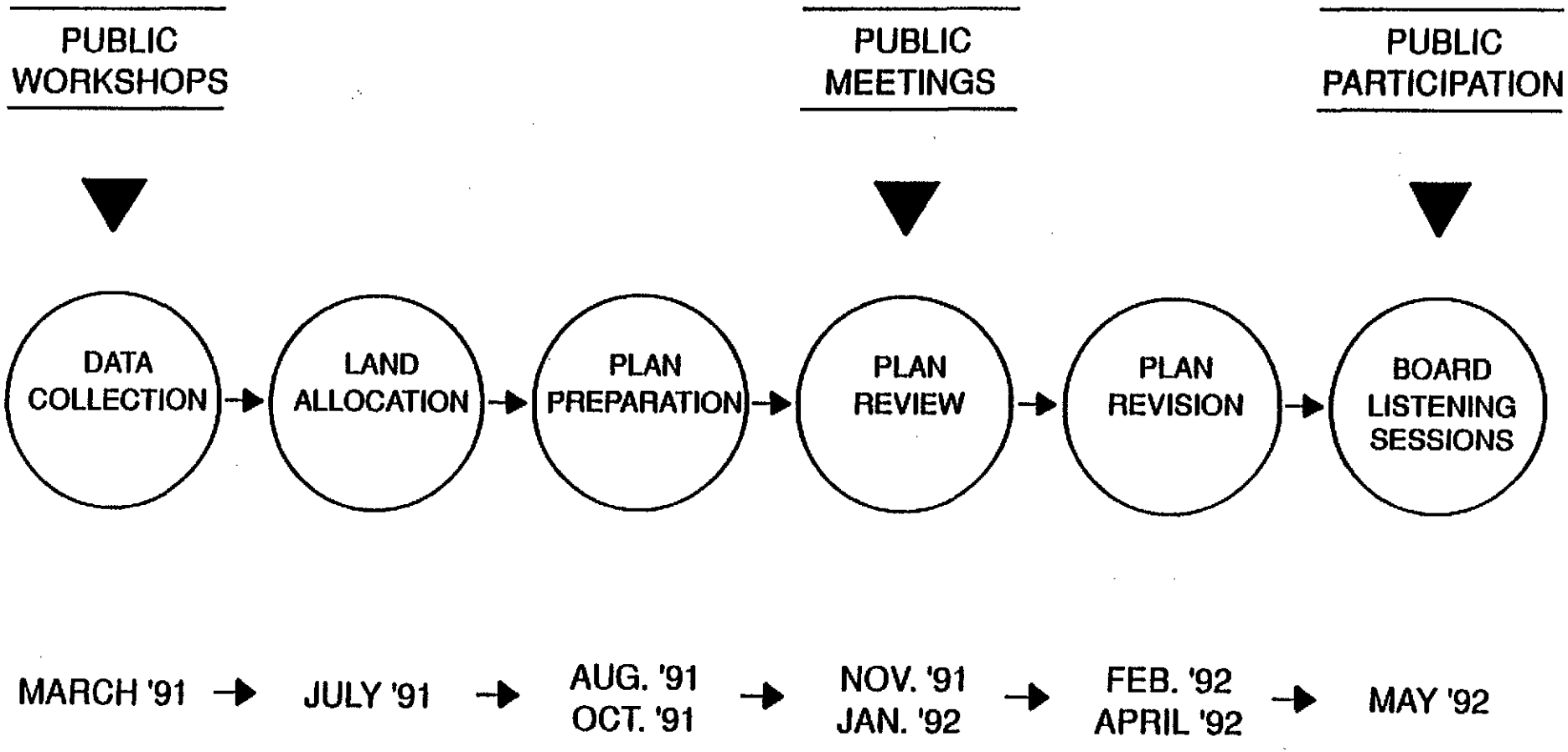
TVA's planning staff will use the public comments, along with other information about natural resources, socioeconomic conditions, adjacent land uses, and existing local and regional plans, to identify suitable uses for TVA's reservoir land. The draft plan showing the uses identified will be distributed for public review (see figure 1). You will have several weeks to comment by mail or you may comment in person at a second round of public meetings to be held for that purpose. The staff will consider all comments about the draft plan, make changes as appropriate, and send the public a report on any recommended changes to the draft plan. Following public review, the TVA Board of Directors has the option of holding a listening session in the reservoir area regarding specific issues or public concerns.

Finally, the planning staff will make any further revisions and submit the plan to the Board for formal approval at an open Board meeting. Copies of the final plan will be available upon request.

RLP-4451L

FIGURE 1

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



WHEELER RESERVOIR FACTSHEET

Reservoir Highlights

- Wheeler is the seventh and last mainstream reservoir to come under the agency's new reservoir planning process. The lake was impounded in 1936, is approximately 67,000 acres in size, with 1,063 miles of shoreline, and is 74 miles long.

- TVA acquired approximately 104,000 acres for the reservoir project in 1933. Today, TVA is the steward for approximately 28,000 acres of fee-owned land above full pool elevation 556. Of this total, 13,000 acres (lands uncommitted to any specific long-term use) will be addressed in the Wheeler planning process.

- The balance of the 104,000 acres is broken down as follows:

  - Approximately 50,000 acres under the lake
  - Approximately 16,000 acres of land sold for commercial, industrial, and residential uses
  - Approximately 10,000 acres of land transferred to other agencies, i.e., state, federal, local

- Lower Segment - Private residential development has occurred along the lower portion of the reservoir and along the Elk River, the largest tributary on the reservoir. Joe Wheeler State Park is located on both the north and south sides of the lake near Wheeler Dam. Limestone County Park near Lucy's Branch Marina/Resort is on the north bank upstream from the Elk. The remaining TVA retained lands adjacent to the reservoir within this lower segment are generally in forestry or agricultural production.

- Middle Segment - The central portion of the reservoir near Decatur represents the largest population center and the greatest concentration of industrial development throughout the reservoir. The newest industrial complex, Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority, is also located west and downstream of the city. The Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, two state wildlife management areas (Swan Creek and Mallard/Fox Creek) and Decatur Boat Harbor are located within this reach of the river. TVA's Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and two TVA public recreation areas are also located in this middle segment. Point Mallard Municipal Park is located east of Decatur at the confluence of Flint Creek and Wheeler Reservoir.

- Upper Segment - The upper third of Wheeler Reservoir is generally composed of a narrow strip of undeveloped TVA fee-owned land with much of the rural backlying private property being used for cattle production and agriculture. Major tributaries within this section of the reservoir are Cataco Creek, Flint River, and Paint Rock River. The only significant development along this upper reach includes the U. S. Army Redstone Arsenal, and the Huntsville-Madison County Marina/Recreation Area, and Madison County Boat Harbor.

The Planning Process

- This new planning process is a progressive approach aimed at better management of reservoir resources through detailed computer analysis of land capabilities and suitabilities with an emphasis on public participation.

- The Land Management Planning process considers the land's physical CAPABILITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS (i.e., slope, soil type, access) as did the agency's earlier reservoir land planning efforts, formerly Reservoir Forecast System. One of the prime differences is a more intense focus on the land use SUITABILITY (i.e., public values, environmental considerations, adjacent land uses, reservoir management goals, etc.).

- Reasons for changing the planning approach:

  1) Increased pressure on a limited land base
  2) Environmental laws, regulations, and agency policies that emphasize environmentally sound decisionmaking
  3) Recognition of the importance of public participation in planning the way TVA land will be used.
  4) Awareness of the impact TVA land uses can have on adjacent privately owned property
  5) The availability of computer technology capable of quickly analyzing land characteristics
  6) Maintaining a constantly changing inventory of reservoir information

- Steps in the planning process (see figure 1):

  1) Collection of land resource data and public opinion (public workshops)
  2) TVA multidiscipline planning team decides on land use allocations
  3) Preparation of draft plan
  4) Public review of draft plan (public meetings)
  5) Revisions of draft plan
  6) Board listening session (as needed)
  7) TVA Board approval
  8) Publication of final plan

- Benefits:

  1) Incorporates public needs and values into TVA's decisionmaking
  2) Gives adjoining property owners a clear statement of how TVA intends to manage its lands
  3) Allows local communities to plan in such a manner that they can take advantage of TVA lands in their growth
  4) Clearly identifies sites for different developmental purposes, i.e., recreation, industry, wildlife, etc.
  5) Speeds handling of requests for use of TVA land
  6) Minimizes conflicting land uses

- Contact: Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader, (615)632-1550

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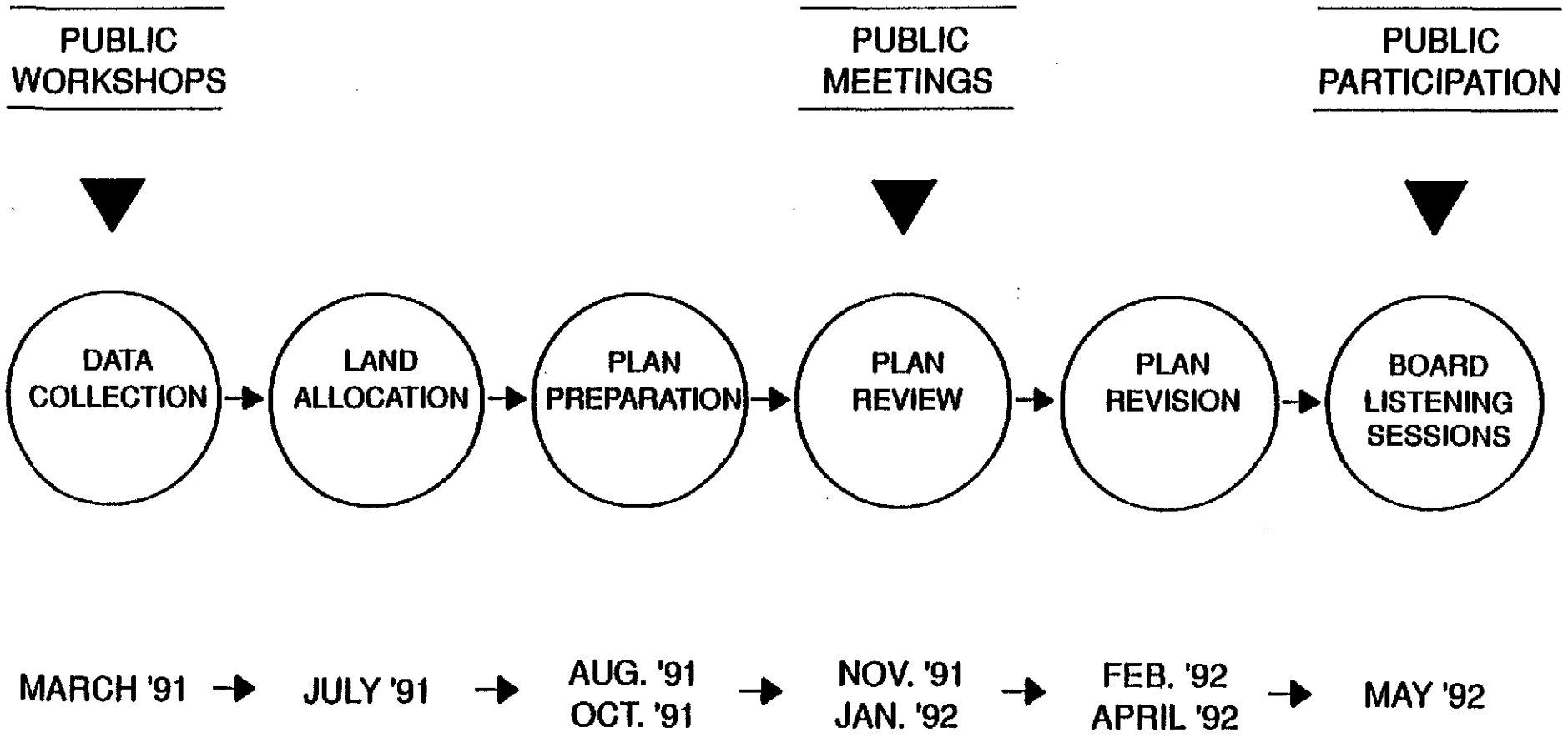
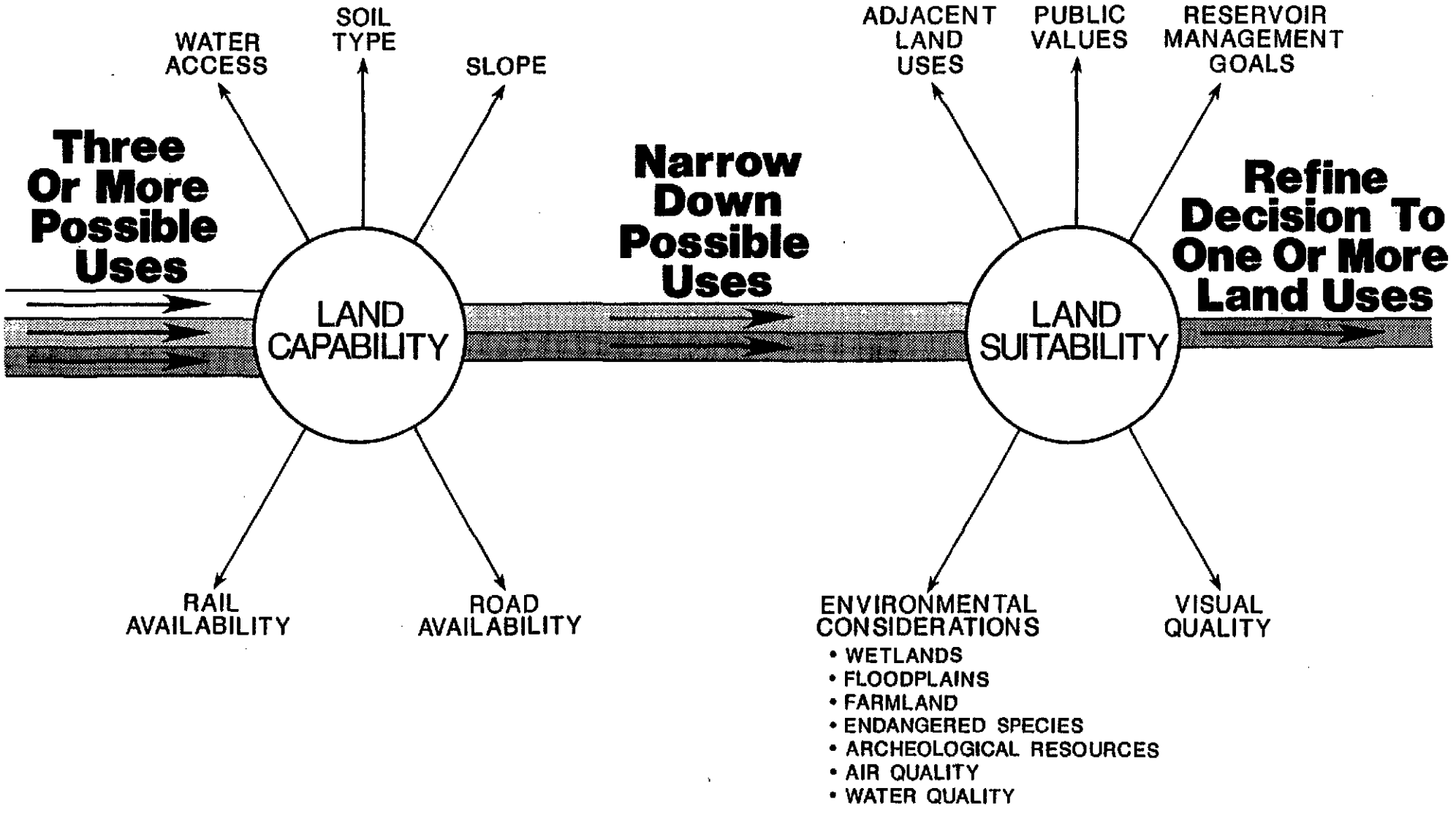
FIGURE 1

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



LAND ALLOCATION PROCESS

(LAND CAPABILITY + LAND SUITABILITY = LAND USE)



LETTER TO PUBLIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

ASKING FOR THEIR REVIEW AND COMMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS DOCUMENT

Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, Tennessee 37828

Spencer D. Boardman
Project Leader
Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning

September 12, 1991

Dear Citizen:

The enclosed document reports the results of three public workshops that the Tennessee Valley Authority conducted regarding Wheeler Reservoir during the month of March. The public comments we received at the workshops, by telephone and through written correspondence, will be used in combination with a wide range of other information to determine the most suitable uses for TVA's fee-owned public land adjacent to the reservoir. We will then prepare a draft plan that describes the proposed land uses. You will have an opportunity to review the draft plan when it is completed (Spring 1992).

The Wheeler Reservoir Planning Team recently met and has completed a draft of specific "reservoir objectives" for the land use planning project. These objectives, which are contained in the final section of the enclosed document, reflect those major issues raised by the public, as well as those from a variety of TVA program areas. Ultimately, the TVA programs will be responsible for implementing the objectives.

Even if you were unable to attend the public workshops, please review the enclosed report and reservoir objectives to be sure that public responses have been accurately recorded and analyzed and the draft reservoir objectives reflect the major issues which need to be addressed in the reservoir land management plan. We would also like to hear from anyone who believes there are additional issues that TVA should consider as we develop the plan. We do ask that all comments be submitted in writing to TVA no later than October 14.

Thank you for your continued support during this planning effort.

Sincerely yours,

Spencer D. Boardman

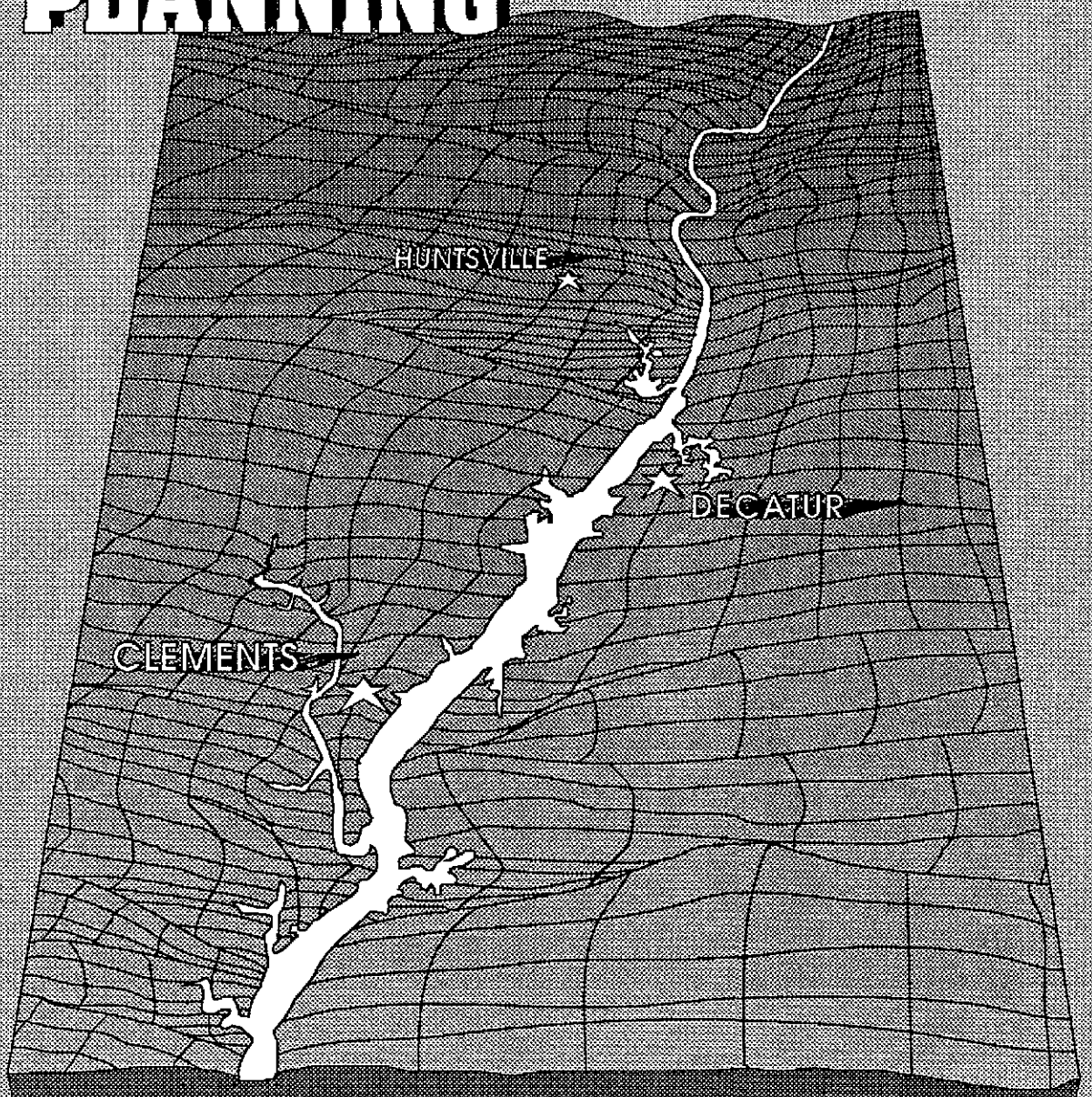
Spencer D. Boardman

Enclosure

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

MARCH 1991

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING



APPENDIX A: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Results of Public Workshops

March 1991

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

RESULTS OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Clements High School
Athens, Alabama
March 19, 1991

Huntsville High School
Huntsville, Alabama
March 20, 1991

Oak Park Middle School
Decatur, Alabama
March 21, 1991

TVA
Reservoir Lands Planning
Property Management and Administration
Norris, Tennessee
August 1991

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Introduction

This report documents the results of three public workshops held March 19 at Clements High School near Athens, Alabama; March 20 at Huntsville High School in Huntsville, Alabama; and March 21 at Oak Park Middle School in Decatur, Alabama. TVA staff will use this information along with other public input and TVA's extensive data base concerning the resources around Wheeler Reservoir to make preliminary decisions about suitable uses for TVA land adjacent to the reservoir.

All concerns mentioned in the public workshops are recorded in this report and will be considered by TVA staff prior to developing a draft reservoir plan. Many comments that may appear unrelated to land planning may indirectly relate to TVA's activities on its reservoir land. For example, the draft land management plan for Wheeler will not specifically address water-related issues. However, decisions about suitable land uses and management activities will be taken into account to avoid potential impacts on water quality. TVA considers all public input relevant to the management of its reservoirs.

The people who attended the public workshops received a short introduction to the planning process and then broke into small groups where they were asked three questions:

1. What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?
2. What improvements and changes in the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?
3. What should the shoreline of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

A TVA employee was assigned to facilitate the interaction of the participants and to record all responses on "flipcharts" in front of the group.

TVA staff asked QUESTION NO. 1 to determine what uses and characteristics of the reservoir are most important to local residents and users of the lake. Since everyone values some things more than others, participants were also asked to rank their responses as either first, second, or third priority. Recognizing that it is impossible to accommodate all possible uses in any one given area of the reservoir, it is important to have an understanding of land uses acceptable to the public. For example, if people in one portion of the reservoir place a high value on undeveloped shoreline, planners can deduce that uses resulting in development of the shoreline on that portion of the reservoir may be unacceptable.

QUESTION NO. 2 gave the public a chance to suggest courses of action for TVA to improve the management and use of its land. Responses go beyond the values identified in Question No. 1 to consider needs and desires related to management of the reservoir. For example, if boating is identified as an important value, responses to Question No. 2 might identify ways to improve boating. Possible responses could be building more boat ramps, improving navigation markers, or providing more land for commercial marinas.

The objective of QUESTION NO. 3 was to build on the responses from the first two questions to produce a futuristic vision of desirable land uses around the lake over the next ten years.

The FIRST SECTION of this report is a documentation of the comments recorded on the charts in the small groups at each workshop. This section also includes lists of registered attendees. Finally, a summary of responses from workshop evaluation forms is provided.

The SECOND SECTION contains a compilation and brief analysis of the information received at the workshops. The responses were placed in 37 categories which assisted the planning staff in summarizing the wide variety of public comments so that a general ranking of priority value could be established.

The THIRD SECTION contains a brief discussion of additional public involvement and correspondence concerning the Wheeler Reservoir planning project. This material will be considered along with the public input received at the workshops.

The FOURTH SECTION contains the Wheeler planning team's vision statement and specific reservoir land management planning goals and objectives based on public and TVA staff input. The goals and objectives reflect TVA's multipurpose mission which provide for a wide range of uses for TVA fee-owned public lands.

For additional information on this project contact:

Reservoir Lands Planning
Tennessee Valley Authority
Ridgeway Road
Norris, Tennessee 37828
615-632-1550 (Knoxville)
615-494-9800 (Norris)

SECTION 1

Facilitator Report of Public Comments

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

This section is a compilation of the comments received at the public workshops held March 19, 20, and 21, 1991. The lists were transcribed from the "flipchart" sheets of responses generated in each small group. The number shown in parenthesis at the end of a response means more than one person registered the same comment.

A list of attendees follows the report of comments for each workshop location. An evaluation form was handed out in the small group sessions to obtain suggestions on how the workshops could be improved. A total of 171 completed evaluation sheets were returned from the 192 people who participated. The responses to the evaluation are summarized for all workshops. See page 92.

CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL

Public Workshop

March 19, 1991

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Natural aesthetics

Recreation--fishing and boating

Archaeological resources--Indian

Lucy's Branch Park (30-year campground)--now closed--want it reopened--camping (3)

Natural Beauty--land, lake, wildlife (2)

Priority 2

Wildlife--land and water (2)

Good bass fishing

Fishing

Recreation--parks, camping, and hiking

Recreation--fishing, swimming, boating, hunting, arrowhead hunting

Priority 3

Fisheries--diversity

Flood control--Sugar Creek area during wet years

Easy access to wildlife areas by car

Swimming at Lucy's Branch

Water skiing

Flood control

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Improve boat ramps--they are all washed out where the Elk River joins the Tennessee (2)

More parks and less heavy or polluting industry on the shoreline

More recreating--parks for camping

More recreating--parks for camping (Lucy's Branch Park specifically)

Decrease boat traffic at Lucy's Branch marina so those who do not belong to marina can use the water for recreation

Legalize drawdown area--Indian artifact collection (see proposal)

Improve or build more hiking trails and campsites

Develop Highway 31 South roadside park (currently unused) into an environmental awareness research center/biology field station (see written proposal)

Priority 2

Provide more water patrols to control safe boat operation and prevent litter--there is currently only one boat patrol on whole lake

Make stiffer fines and impose them for anything that pollutes the water--rules are adequate, enforcement is not

Reopen Lucy's Branch park

Let milfoil grow in more lake areas (away from houses) to improve fishing

Build a museum to preserve the artifacts washed out of the banks

Have safeguards established to protect the areas wildlife

Increase the number of wildlife sanctuaries and/or enlarge existing sanctuaries

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 3

Increase mosquito control--more spraying

No barging facilities (3)

Stop Wheeler Refuge from locking roadway gates in winter so the public can use year-round

Increase number of raptorial birds--hauking

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Minimal development on all shoreline (2)

Natural environment--minimum development (2)

Make industry on shoreline less obvious--better air and water quality

Less industry, more recreational facilities (any type)--Lucy's Branch open for public use

Leave some beauty for grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Remove all logs and debris from reservoir

Priority 2

More wildlife habitat--more vegetation

Water at higher levels in winter--less drawdown (2)

Fewer water weeks in shallow water

More wildlife and waterfowl

Better and more boat ramps and adequate maintenance--ramp areas kept unlittered

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 3

Fewer nonpoint pollution sources

Cleaner lake and shoreline--pollution free, litter free

Less bottles and cans on the shoreline

No more commercial development where the Elk River joins the Tennessee

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Fishing, boating (2)

Clean water for public use

Camping and water recreation--fishing (3)

Preservation as public land

Maintaining scenic beauty

Preservation from industrial development

Pleasurable permanent river residence

Access by foot

Regenerate/enhance waterfowl

Priority 2

Limiting industrial development on shoreline (2)

No litter/debris/trash on shoreline, e.g., bottles, cans (3)

Flood control

Wooded shoreline

Quiet, peacefulness

Depth of water--for boating safety

Priority 3

Depth of water for access

Stable water levels

Camping/water recreation

Cleaner shoreline--less trash

Access--roads, foot access

TVA maps--other planning services offered by states, other Federal agencies

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 1

Priority 3 (continued)

Preservation of historical sites

Value opportunity for public input

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

TVA should establish litter control guidelines-post at public launching areas, e.g., harm to aquatic life of monofilament lines

Do not allow private marinas to build so far out that it interferes with others access and recreational use, e.g., like marina across from Lucy's Branch (2)

Make the land and water more accessible from roadways--hiking trails, roads, etc. (2)

TVA should work to provide affordable developed camping areas--for low income. Affordable: used to pay $6 per night at Lucy's Branch, including water and electricity (2)

Need better law enforcement (e.g., drugs, speeding) and creel limits. Is there anything TVA can do to stop drug drops?

Remove logs and debris in Elk River--hazard to water sports

Consider ways to sell campsites to individuals, e.g., through private development. Example: Weiss Lake

Retain TVA land for public use

Two-foot winter drawdown maximum with shorter chain of command to open gates

Priority 2

Better maintain boat launching areas

Facilitate more camping areas for middle class/low income (5)

Establish litter control guidelines. Better coordinate enforcement with state and local agencies. Publicize laws

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 3

Locate and open to the public Indian sites and historical sites--not for artifact hunting--for viewing, educational

More signs on TVA lands to prohibit dumping

Limit hunting to archery only near residential areas

Purchase lands for recreation, adjacent to other lands, as part of reevaluation/reallocation process

Need caretaker for campgrounds

Provide swimming areas for children

Plant more trees on shoreline

Restrict industrial development that adversely impacts recreation use

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

No mud anytime of year

No more than two-foot fluctuation

Hiking trails, bike trails, wildflowers, pretty picnic areas--opportunities for nature observation and photography (3)

Clean, well-maintained family campgrounds along the river

Well landscaped residences along shoreline

Cleaner shoreline

TVA will have sold land it does not intend to use for private residences

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 2

Clean water

Clean, well-kept piers and docks

Improved roads and boat launches

Lucy's Branch campground reopened (6)

Reopen Wheeler campground

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 3

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Fishing opportunities (2)

Protect the environment--like it is now

Access to water from ramps

Beauty of the river system (3)

Quality of water

Skiing (2)

Priority 2

Fishing opportunities (3)

Camping (3)

Quality of water (2)

General recreation (2)

Priority 3

Quality of water (2)

Public parks and facilities

Aesthetics

Economic opportunities

Wildlife observation

Endangered species

Natural shoreline as it is now

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 3

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Set up safe and ecologically sound off-road vehicle (ORV) trail system for two- and four-wheelers. Spread over large area so land is not damaged

Wildlife repopulation and protection

More community involvement in setting up best management practices (example: set areas conducive to wildlife habitat aside for that; same for ORV areas) for TVA land

Allow horseback riding on TVA land in/near Wheeler Wildlife Refuge in Bluff City area

Reserve land on west shore of mouth of Second Creek for commercial marina or clean industrial development requiring water transportation

Keep industry out of Dell Vista shores area

Keep bottom of river from showing next to bank--keep lake up year-round

Priority 2

Put in more access docks at widely used launching ramp areas

Keep water clean

More cooperation and faster permitting of proposed facilities--not three-plus months

Designate 134 acres at end of Barnett's Landing Road for industrial development

Develop, improve, increase water/shoreline controls--prevent/clean up trash--get citizens involved

Improve cleanliness of shoreline, control drainage into lake

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 3

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 3

Eliminate (no more) industrial development on TVA land

Control abuses--eyesores, litter, dumps

More TVA involvement of management of state wildlife areas

Sell lands (not essential to TVA mission) for residential development/economic boom

More community involvement in management of TVA land--like these meetings!

Cleaner, more usable restrooms and showers at camping areas

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Want view from home at Dell Vista Shores to be the same--leave it alone

Save wildlife and endangered species that are here now

Clean water, shoreline

ORV trail system

Balance of residential, recreational, wildlife, industrial development--in way "zones" or areas can be easily identified (2)

More residential development on water

Keep view--all along river remain same--selectively cut timber, but preserve view

Maintain river/lands as near natural as possible--minimize clearing--increase reforestation

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 3

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 2

Minimize structures in water. Example: floating restaurant that is not water use (2)

New TVA method for marking contours (white paint on trees, house, ramp)--use green paint or another marker (2)

Durable and preserved ORV trail system (3)

Priority 3

Directed effort to attract eagles/osprey--nesting sites

More picnic areas, recreation areas where roads go to river (4)

Water level up in winter

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 4

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Public accessibility--boat launches, camping areas, recreation areas

Protection of natural beauty and environment--no unsightly or harmful development

Protection of natural beauty

Preservation of wetlands

Priority 2

Sportsmanship

Keep lake clean--natural and unpolluted--safe (i.e., speeding boats, navigation obstruction, congestion near ramps during bass tournaments)

Fear of large money interest controlling shoreline

Water quality--industrial pollution, especially paper mills

Property at mouth of Elk River should be preserved for public use (public launch)

Safety from irresponsible people at public use areas

Available for public use

Vegetation along the shoreline

Keep public interest at heart--more public input

Separate industrial and residential use--zoning guidelines

Reduce fluctuation of lake levels

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 4

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Stricter pollution guidelines

Closer monitoring of guidelines

Reestablish high-water contours--down

Look at recreation potential for islands

Extend lake up Elk River

Educational use by boy scouts, etc.

Miniature Land Between The Lakes

TVA exercise control over location of land fills that may pollute lake--no barging of waste anywhere on river

TVA become involved in development anywhere that impacts lake

TVA keep ownership of land--work with citizen groups on use

Keep as much TVA land as possible in natural state

Lease land adjoining cemetery

Lucy's Branch

Another access bridge near Elk River

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Keep natural--no freeways, bridges, etc.

Priority 2

Limited industrial development

Restricted structures

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 4

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 2 (continued)

More public access and use areas

Minimize marina construction

Shoreline should reflect input/results of meeting like tonight

Give more attention to lake driftwood and other trash

Limit industrial development

No further industrial development

Limit profit that can be taken by developer

Limit residential development to single-family units

No satellite dishes visible from lake

Camping increased for Limestone County

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 5

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Picnicking, camping--not private

Public use with farmland--lease land for agricultural use

Recreational areas for all-terrain vehicles (AIV)/ORV's--access so that other people know they can use this land--multiple use

Fishing, camping, hunting--general recreational merit

Outdoor recreation because it is natural and mostly unimproved--multiple use in designated area

Less populated aspect of Wheeler particular usage

Extensive undeveloped reaches of shoreline/scenic beauty

Preservation of the scenic and environmental quality

Camping and public recreation

Public camping, picnicking, and fishing

Priority 2

Updating present camping facilities and building more--public recreation facilities

Not to be industrialized--waste away/BFI (garbage)

Stop people from shooting guns on public lands

Flood control/low electricity rates

People own public lands--manage it well

No more industrial sites

Keep high water quality

Meet the multipurpose recreational needs of the public

Camping facilities

Lease closed camping facilities so the public will have more options--not to contractors, to individuals

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 5

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Staging events on TVA land

Old Lucy Branch park--rebuild park--turn it back over to the county to operate

Increase standards for making change in undisturbed areas including timber production

Keep industry away from areas that have not been industrialized

Publish low water level for residential information--TVA do maintenance--clean up stumps

Stop the tree farming and replant the hardwoods

Problem on Elk River with dirt/silt runoff--TVA needs to address

Designate with signs--TVA areas

Make process easier on private property improvement--dredging of populated branches

Reopen old Lucy's Branch park--turn back over to Limestone County

Have commercial launching facilities with attendants

Park with membership fees

Eagles on Elk River--Elk River Bridge/Highway 72 suitable for endangered species designation

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Undeveloped shoreline to look just like nature made it

Keep Wheeler looking as good as it does now--plant trees as barriers/camouflage--develop recreation areas without damaging environment

Keep area looking as good as it does--keep scenic beauty--keep undeveloped shoreline

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 5

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 2

See the water kept as clean as possible--definitely anti-industry on reservoir--need family picnic areas

Very low-tech recreation facilities--natural beauty--back agriculture fields from shoreline

See some TVA seawalls or other technology--to stop erosion

See reservoir unchanged--not industrialized

More recreational facilities--not private

Encouragement of the enjoyment of natural beauty

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 6

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Watching wildlife--herons, ducks, turtles, snakes

Recreational opportunities--swimming, fishing, boating, picnicking, variety

Natural beauty of water and trees

Beautiful place to be and to live

Clean water so that water life can live and flourish

Clean water--business and personal--recreation

Cleanliness of the water and surrounding shoreline--generally clean overall

Beauty of natural surrounding and the cleanliness of the lake

Public lands where natural history is protected and managed--wildlife and plants, soil, water--able to go there and relax--get away

Quiet and peaceful natural surroundings

Recreation--for the people and for me

Priority 2

Quiet, peaceful, beauty

The availability of barge transportation which helps provide jobs

Quiet--vegetation dulls noise and helps make quiet place to live--leave the trees

Fishing--fish to eat, boat fishing (crappie)

Clean water--do not want barge loading and unloading facilities--they spill into water--especially garbage

Flood control purpose of Wheeler Lake

Lack of industry, however, want to cluster development

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 6

QUESTION NO. 1

Priority 2

Clean water

Educational opportunities on the lake such as Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge and old first quarter

Recreation--boating, skiing, camping

Housing--shoreline residential development

Priority 3

Recreational--boating

There can be a variety of multiple uses on the lake and they can all be compatible and fit well together

Presence of wildlife on the lake--need to see that it survives for the future

Recreation--boating, fishing

Clean shoreline where wildlife can live and forests can grow

Pleasure boating and excellent fishing--good variety and numbers

Recreation--boating, skiing, fishing

Hiking trails on the shoreline built by TVA

Recreation--fishing and water sports

Wildlife--ducks, turtles, squirrels

Commerce--no docking facilities in Limestone County--need some to improve commerce on Wheeler

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 6

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Allow more flexibility for adjoining landowners--for instance brush clearing

More boat ramps and picnic areas--maybe Mallard-Fox industrial area

More public awareness that lake waters can become diminished, polluted

More flexibility for adjoining landowners on TVA retained strip (XWR-440R)

Public camping and swimming on east bank of Cow Ford Slough end of Hatchett Road, Round Island Creek

Quit playing God--TVA answers only if they want to and when they want to. Better responsiveness to public

Develop or lease lands to private enterprise for development--recreational development and residential

Protect prime farmland along the river

Designate abandoned park on Highway 31S as environmental study area--managed by Athens State College

Increase shoreline inspections to identify structures needing repair, replacement, or removal

Give more consideration to the people and the use they make of the lake-- land and water. Not responsive enough or receptive to people/landowners--no personal feeling about the people/the user. People not as important as they should be to TVA

Priority 2

Do everything to improve water quality-- Champion Mill pollutes, aquatic grasses, extend full pool levels in fall

Continue to identify customers and find out what they need

Need more water safety officers--too much fast boating and horseplay

Be more responsive to public--more public information and publicizing of what TVA is doing

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 6

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 2

Improve and reopen Lucy's Branch park for camping and for boats

Process requests more quickly--permit requests

Inform public of water level changes

More safety patrolling on water

Improve their ability to educate and inform public about natural history of TVA lands and waters

Open Lucy's Branch park

Make shoreline areas accessible to public by boat for picnicking, clean up and clear informal picnicking (public use areas) for boat access only--no roads (camping). Do immediately after plan is approved-as an interim use, until designated use occurs--from mouth of Elk River back to Round Island Creek--Limestone County

Resist "improvements" to springs or free-flowing streams

Put water level/lake level reports on television and radio

Have appeal process above district office staff

Separate functions of TVA/USACE

Do not drop lake levels on weekends

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Not much change--slightly more residential

Well planned, as it fits needs of each community, fit well together

Like it looks today--maybe increased wilderness

Very much as is today--clean water, pretty shoreline

Like today--only cleaner (litter, trash)

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 6

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 1

Implement the plan or sell to someone that will do it

Lands developed by TVA or private enterprise--for more recreation--for general public

Stay in natural surroundings--but well planned so uses do not conflict

Maintain status quota--as is

Stay the way it is with a little more residential development

Develop the plan--stick to it

Take better care of TVA shoreline to prevent erosion--riprap

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 7

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Water recreation--fishing, boating, etc.

Camping and other recreational facilities

Natural beauty and cleanliness (2)

Undeveloped shoreline--natural unspoiled beauty (2)

Water quality (3)

Air quality

Wildlife habitat

Priority 2

TVA owned land on and off shoreline that can be held for future decisions

Balanced ecosystem

Industry is grouped in small areas

Influence over regional--rather that local values

Fishing

Natural beauty and cleanliness

Undeveloped shoreline--natural unspoiled beauty

Water quality (2)

Priority 3

Water quality (3)

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 7

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Improve access to TVA Board by public other than political, industrial, or financial interests

Prohibit sale or lease of TVA lands for heavy industrial use

Devise educational programs to improve appreciation of natural environment

Control use of property by leasing instead of selling

More supervision to insure adequate safety

Sale of TVA land for zoned or controlled private use

Development of some small natural areas for trails, wildflowers, wildlife habitat, etc.

Publish operating plan for lake, including periods of low water for maintenance of piers and waterfronts

Devise long-range plan for limiting commercial and industrial use

Improve sanitation, if necessary by stricter regulations and public information--boat sanitation, poor use by private landowners, etc.

Priority 2

Develop an ethic for protecting farmland and other resources

Purchase bordering land for watershed preservation and public use--not necessarily on shoreline

Work with volunteer organizations to create and maintain ORV areas and trails--long-term and short-term

Retain natural wildlife shoreline

Designate some land for ORV use

Increase number of recreational facilities

Evolve a philosophy of land use that will ensure future generations of our rich heritage

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 7

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 2

Better maintenance of both land and water areas--trash and fallen tree removal

No private deals

Priority 3

More public involvement in planning and management of TVA lands (4)

Improve management and quality of existing campgrounds and other facilities (2)

No private deals

Reservoir areas that may have high value for private use should be preserved for public use

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Should have more public parks with boat ramps

Industrial development should be limited (2)

Maximum shoreline in rural usage

Residential and industrial development restricted to specific areas of shoreline

Environmentally sound industrial development

All existing pollution of land, air, and water cleaned up

Natural areas being preserved for future generations

Wildlife preserves established for public enjoyment

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 7

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 2

Should have more public parks with boat ramps

Maximum shoreline in rural usage

Residential and industrial development restricted to specific areas or shoreline

All existing pollution of land, air, and water cleaned up

Natural areas being preserved for future generations

Wildlife preserves established for public enjoyment (2)

Priority 3

Incentives created for people to conform to a certain standard of maintenance

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 8

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Recreation provided at Limestone County Park--Lucy's Branch (2)

Public recreation (3)

Hydro Power/Flood Control/Navigation Control

Public recreation/clean water

Hunting/fishing--public access (4)

Hunting/fishing opportunities--hunting/fishing habitat preservation (2)

Economic impact--industry

Wildlife management areas and refuges--habitat enhancement

Economic enhancement--jobs, industry, agriculture, power/transportation, natural resources

Priority 2

Camping opportunities around reservoir

Recreation--fishing, hunting, boating

Economic impact of industry

Educating youth regarding environmental/natural resources and values

Access to TVA lands for hiking, exploring, trails, riding

Undeveloped shoreline--woods, rocks, trees

Public recreation opportunities

Priority 3

Public (municipal) and industrial water supply

Underdeveloped TVA lands around the reservoir protect the environment

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 8

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Stiffer guidelines on Southside Industries--to prevent discharges that impact reservoir environment

More campgrounds in Limestone County that the public can afford

TVA should prudently evaluate the uses for, and to whom, they sell land, for industrial purposes (2)

More public access to reservoir lands and better maintenance of existing access

More boat access--ramps

Use old fish hatchery for wildlife management area

Better access to TVA Land Management staff. Find out where the buck stops! Find the same person twice!

Maintain ramps to be safer and more usable-Cow Ford Landing, no lighting--most pathetic boat ramps of any TVA lake--Lucy's Branch

More emphasis on wildlife habitat enhancement and providing food for wintering waterfowl

Better intergovernmental coordination. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, counties, cities, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Alabama Game and Fish

Maintain water above 544' through September 15

Attention to cleaning out sloughs (Elk River) mouth of creek's that flow into Elk

ATHENS--CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
March 19, 1991
Group No. 8

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Balanced and property managed for residential, recreation, industrial uses

Freeze Frame--no development of undeveloped (now) TVA land (2)

Ten-year old oaks on all abandoned farmland along Elk River

No pollution. Enforce existing laws. Federal (EPA), Alabama (ADEM), and TVA should force Federal and state to enforce laws (2)

Fish and Wildlife populations on the increase rather than on decrease (last several years)--"Duck Feathers Ankle Deep"

Campers and fishermen work together--adequate facilities for each (boat ramps)

For children to have the same kind of recreational opportunities that we have had coming from the reservoir--hunting, fishing, public access for camping

Incredibly clean and productive

No trash in water--no drunk drivers--more enforcement--marine police

Higher (maintenance of a reasonable) water levels in early fall

RLP-4806L

CLEMENTS WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
ATHENS, ALABAMA
MARCH 19, 1991

Stephen D. Abston
Route 11, Box 89
Florence, Alabama 35630

Jerry W. Adams
114 Village Lane
Athens, Alabama 35611

Marlin A. Anderson, Jr.
1206 Highway 31 South
Athens, Alabama 35611

Brian J. Armitage
P.O. Box 880
Athens, Alabama 35611

Brian L. Bailey
Route 2, Box 557
Laceys Spring, Alabama 35754

Thomas A. Barr
461B Panorama Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Albert R. and Aileen Barran
Route 12, Box 613
Athens, Alabama 35611

Ricky J. Barran
Route 12, Box 619
Athens, Alabama 35611

Otis M. Beach
P.O. Box 250
Courtland, Alabama 35618

Craig W. Beasley
704 Norton
Athens, Alabama 35611

Macon Beddingfield
Route 8
Athens, Alabama 35611

Debra S. Behnke
Route 5, Box 308-A
Athens, Alabama 35611

John C. Black
309 East Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

Maxine W. Black
Route 12, Box 641
Athens, Alabama 35611

Lowell E. Blankenship
Route 10, Box 429
Athens, Alabama 35611

Bob E. and Oma L. Blanks
Route 3, Box 156
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

Jarvis L. Brewer
P.O. Box 237
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

Kent E. Bridges
Route 5, Box 289
Athens, Alabama 35611

Walter G. and Dorothy H. Burch
Route 6, Box 156
Killen, Alabama 35645

Billy Burgreen
100 Maryville Drive
Athens, Alabama 35611

Jeff D. Camp
108 Estate Drive
Athens, Alabama 35611

Charles R. Christensen
1400 Levert Avenue
Athens, Alabama 35611

Mark A. Copeland
1107 South Madison
Athens, Alabama 35611

Danny F. Crawford
711 East Hobbs Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
ATHENS, ALABAMA
MARCH 19, 1991

John P. Crowder
421 Nottingham Road
Florence, Alabama 35633

Christopher L. Dennis
Route 12, Box 612
Athens, Alabama 35611

John L. and Rita Dumbacher
6819 Jones Valley Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

Glendon R. and Glenda H. Easter
Route 8, Box 187
Athens, Alabama 35611

Lester Elmore
Route 8, Box 465
Athens, Alabama 35611

Hansel E. Ezell
806 Governors Drive
Athens, Alabama 35801

Ann Farrar
Route 5, Box 456
Athens, Alabama 35611

Shirley F. Favors
Route 1, Box 401
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

William A. Ferguson
2904 Garth Road
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Ronald L. Foreman
Route 6, Box 414X
Athens, Alabama 35611

Archie R. Gann
2903 Hunterwood Drive, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Earl J. Gardner
1820 Kirk Street
Florence, Alabama 35630

Richard A. Gerberding
422 Eustis Avenue, SE
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Lyn Gossett
106 Brookwood Drive
Athens, Alabama 35611

Barry L.and Virginia L. Greenhaw
Route 8, Box 463
Athens, Alabama 35611

John H. Gustafson
127 Rivermont Bend
Somerville, Alabama 35670

William T. Ham
Route 12, Box 469
Athens, Alabama 35611

Betty S. Harper
Route 12, Box 213
Athens, Alabama 35611

Harold A. and Joanna M. Henderson
717 West Lakeside Drive
Florence, Alabama 35630

Judy V. Holland
Route 3, Box 416
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

William B. and Loli M. Howard
P.O. Box 47
Elkmont, Alabama 35620

Tom S. Jandebeur
Athens State College
P.O. Box 215
Athens, Alabama 35611

James M. and Emma L. Jenkins
Route 2, Box 60
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

Francis P. Jones
300 North Houston
Athens, Alabama 35611

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
ATHENS, ALABAMA
MARCH 19, 1991

Jeff D. Knight
168 Alton Lynch Circle
Madison, Alabama 35658

Maxie M. Loggins
102 Montclair
Athens, Alabama 35611

Troy E. McCutchen
115 Rivermont Bend, North
Somerville, Alabama 35670

Elliott L. McElroy
Route 3, Box 338A
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

Walter McGlocklin
Route 1
Athens, Alabama 35611

Mary L. Meadows
Route 4, Box 486
Killen, Alabama 35645

George E. and Lana E. Mobley
Route 3, Box 156A
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

H. N. and Laura E. Mobley
Route 3, Box 158
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

Ronnie J. and Sharon L. Nave
Route 12, Box 187A
Athens, Alabama 35611

Russell S. and Anthe J. Perry
Route 12, Box 522
Athens, Alabama 35611

John Plunk
P.O. Box 711
Athens, Alabama 35611

D. L. Putman
Route 5, Box 451
Athens, Alabama 35611

Jerry S. and Frances S. Putman
Route 3, Box 143
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

Tony L. Ramsey
Route 10, Box 147A
Athens, Alabama 35611

Sharon G. Roberts
106 Carl Driver
Harvest, Alabama 35749

Dennis E. Robertson
Route 8, Box 340A
Athens, Alabama 35611

Tom Scott
P.O. Box 1024
Athens, Alabama 35611-1024

Philip A. Searcy
Route 5, Box 308A
Athens, Alabama 35611

Walter B. and Betty L. Shaw
P.O. Box 5
Mooresville, Alabama 35649

Bruce T. Shelton
Route 2, Box 520
Laceys Spring, Alabama 35754

Gail W. Smith
Congressman Cramer's Office
P.O. Box 668
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Jerry L. Stokes
Route 5, Box 374
Athens, Alabama 35611

Allen M. and Teresa D. Sutton
Route 10, Box 222AA
Athens, Alabama 35611

Charles W. Sutton
118 Northwood Circle
Harvest, Alabama 35749

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL
ATHENS, ALABAMA
MARCH 19, 1991

Tommie F. and Nora P. Taylor
Route 4, Box 44-E
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

Gary M. Thomas
201 Owens Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

Robert A. Todd
405 Paradise Street
Lawrenceburg, Tennessee 38464

Scott Tucker
1501 Reynard Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

Billy W. Turner, Sr.
Route 12, Box 501
Athens, Alabama 35611

Clara E. Turner
Route 2, Box 347-C
Toney, Alabama 35773

William H. Wallace
170 Canyon Road
Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

Brenda L. Walten
Route 1, Box 434
Killen, Alabama 35645

George T. Williamson
Route 12, Box 463A
Athens, Alabama 35611

Houston A. Yarbrough
1109 Bessemer Road
Huntsville, Alabama 35816

Milton Yarbrough
P.O. Box 6003
Huntsville, Alabama 35824

Kay N. Young
Route 12, Box 468
Athens, Alabama 35611

HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Public Workshop

March 20, 1991

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Values the sense of history and the time that the reservoir represents

Opportunity to enjoy outdoor interests--wildlife, wetlands areas, and others

Wildlife refuge and preservation of wildlife

Public appeal--the lake and wildlife is attractive to public and tourism

Outdoor recreation--hunting, fishing, bird watching

Wildlife--birds

Priority 2

It's for everyone--accessible to rich and poor

Boating--all kinds

Ability to use land for recreational purposes

Outdoor recreation--boating and fishing

Closeness and suitability for a variety of several club group activities--hiking, canoeing, wildflowers, camping, biking (nonmotorized)

Priority 3

Wildlife and flowers

Power generation and flood control--the public utility of the reservoir

Value added to property

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Would like to see surface collection of artifacts allowed

More wildlife management areas, wetlands development for consumption use, i.e., hunting

Clean up areas where open dumping has occurred and enforcement of current litter/dumping laws

Ensure land is kept clean for aesthetic purposes

Improved access roads to public land around whole lake--one near Decatur has a huge pothole

Initiate a voluntary group clean up effort using local clubs and interested groups--like "Adopt-A-Mile" on the highways

Priority 2

More remediation of industrial development. That is, pay back of additional public recreation use areas in exchange for any land developed

Improvement of public use areas, especially to repair bank erosion

More boat launches and improve existing ramps--some are improperly designed--wrong angle or too shallow

More hiking trails and more campsites--back country and car camping

More day use opportunities, especially on east end of reservoir, i.e., hiking, walking

Priority 3

Less focus on industrial development

More tolerance of easement use--let property owners make some improvements to easements

Build more fishing piers

No industrial development

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 3

More public access and facilities preferably run by state or county agencies--not by concessionaires. Profit motive rather than public interest resulting in too high a cost both monetary and public trust

Curtail rowcrop agriculture because it silts the river

Prohibit all-terrain vehicles on TVA land--would accept a designated area.

Curtail dredging in shallows because that area is start of wildlife food chain

Multiple mode access to TVA property continued to be allowed

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Limit development so as to preserve proper balance between private and public use--do not cut off access or passage ways by developing large tracts

No more than ten percent of shoreline developed

No new industrial, commercial, or residential development

Undeveloped wilderness areas preserved

More wildlife management areas and wetlands enhancement for hunting

Limited industrial, commercial, and residential

Preserve existing wildlife refuges, natural settings, and enhance recreation for community as well as tourist use

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 2

Lots of trees and alternate meadows

No further development of commercial agricultural land and no further timber harvesting (2)

Continued accessibility to public use areas

Lots of trees and alternate meadows, but trees planted, not pines for harvesting

Unruffled--better than today--well maintained

Priority 3

Surrounding land use preserves excellent water quality

Improved water quality by controlling land use

Public use and wilderness areas should be well maintained

More development of public use facilities--improvement of existing and adding more

Yesterday's litter will be picked up--clean waterfronts

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Wildness, naturalness--healthy environment

Wetlands

Wildlife habitat

Preservation of the land development and undeveloped

Water sports--fishing, boating, hunting

Flood control/soil erosion control

Priority 2

Archaeological resources

Hunting, fishing (2)

Wildlife

Industrial development potential

Camping, trails, other recreation opportunities

Priority 3

Protection of existing natural resources/maintaining current balance between public and private uses (3)

Attractive residential development

Maintenance shoreline property--clean, litter free

Wildlife

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Bring river bank erosion under control (2)

Make Cotaco and Flint Creek and/or Flint River wildlife management areas--not refuges, but open for variety of public uses

Shoreline cleanup--litter, trash, debris

Develop campground in Lacy Springs/Cotaco area--preferably with hookups

Improve/better maintain boat launches--i.e., where Elk and Tennessee meet

Priority 2

TVA should have a stronger program for monitoring/controlling point sources of water pollution

Improved vector control on Wheeler wildlife areas--provide better waterfowl habitat (e.g., cut willow lines)--could get conservation groups, volunteers to do

More government employees to patrol/control poaching, litter (2)

Better flood control--avoid recent flooding in Lacy Springs

Better control of boating use--have more small facilities scattered around reservoir

Priority 3

Stop clearcutting, except to control pine beetles. Emphasize hardwoods, not pines

Improve the number of times water is pumped out of dewatering areas--pump out earlier (and pump again if necessary)

Allow private agricultural use of dewatering areas--as in the past

Take action to better control littering--lobby states or get enforcement authority

Maintain stable summer water level for recreation

TVA should have someone on the river looking for exposed archaeological sites--and taking preservation

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

The same as now (2)

Prefer the same--but have to recognize the need for some change (e.g., more industrial development)

Preserve existing land--allows more control

Priority 2

The same--opposed to proposed industrial canal, or other actions to cut up Wheeler refuge (2)

TVA should change from an economic development agency to a conservation/resource protection agency (2)

Need to preserve what we've got

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 3

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

The marine life/ecological system--fish and plants

Fishing, boating, skiing (2)

Beauty (natural) of the area

Underdeveloped shoreline--not over built

Priority 2

Scenic value--break from agricultural, residential, and industrial land (2)

Availability of waterfowl and shoreline wildlife for observation

Undeveloped shoreline balanced with residential development

Priority 3

Wildlife--ducks, eagles, geese, cranes

Scenic value

Water recreation--boating, skiing, fishing (2)

Availability of land for hiking, camping, etc.

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

No additional industrial development on TVA land on the lake (3)

Removal of flood and high water debris along shoreline--lots of trees washing into lake--creates navigation and other problems. Especially Flint Creek, Elk River, but also occurs along Tennessee River

Better identification of public boundaries of TVA land to know which lands can be used by public

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 3

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 2

More enforcement of TVA property rights to clear encroachments

Reduction of industrial and other pollutants to improve water quality

Keep land at status quota--no more commercial development, such as Lucy Branch marina

TVA should sell land below 560' contour to adjacent private landowners--I use it as my front yard and care for it (cleanup, etc.)

New land management programs for wildlife--better habitat, increase populations

Priority 3

Improve launching ramps--rebuild--need better grade, need to be longer, need new surfaces

Control erosion along shoreline--lots of land and trees lost to water in past 20 years along undeveloped TVA land (3)

Better utilization/management of forest resource--quicker response to problems from insects and disease; more intensive management to prevent those problems

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

No more residential, commercial, industrial development than what is there now

Retention of significant areas (especially land seasonally under water) for wildlife management--waterfowl and fishing emphasized

Clean

Cleaner more natural looking shoreline--control of erosion will be necessary to achieve this

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 3

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 2

Clean, unpolluted water by promoting a healthier ecological system

More residential development, but no more commercial and industrial development

Erosion is under control

More stability of water levels--raising and lowering contributes to erosion

Elimination of grazing and crop use of TVA land--sites planted in trees--to control erosion

Priority 3

Well marked TVA property boundaries

No more commercial/industrial development (3)

More stability of water levels

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 4

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Multipurpose use and undeveloped areas

Likes the aesthetics and natural look

Values the whole reservoir

Open spaces

Priority 2

Likes the good maps and charts being provided. This makes it easier to get around

Provides good wildlife habitat especially for waterfowl

Is satisfied with services

Boat docks, good facilities to provide

Priority 3

Lack of aquatic plants

Recreational opportunities, fishing, day use areas, picnicking, etc.

Providing avenue where water quality can be obtained and revenue through agricultural leasing program and benefits to landowners

Nature through maintained wildlife areas

HUNTSVILLE—HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 4

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Assistance with removing log debris

Keeping buoyed or marked channels clear

Providing better access to land locked tracts

Shore up and reduce bank erosion

Beautification of the riverbanks, i.e., clean up debris. People use them as landfills

Priority 2

Stop barge traffic on Elk River. Wave action has destroyed sea wall and loss of significant part of lot

Provide more recreational opportunities

Would like sewage treatment plant

Priority 3

Planning to prevent aquatic growth before it becomes a serious problem

Clean up dumping on shoreline as well as woods tracts

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Look the same as it does not, no more significant development along the shoreline

Look as natural as possible--less development

Repaired all eroded shoreline

HUNTSVILLE--HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
March 20, 1991
Group No. 4

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 2

Old fish hatchery developed--used for aquatic birds, i.e., ducks

Reintroduce Bald Eagles

Improved water quality

HUNTSVILLE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
MARCH 20, 1991

Randall A. Allen
1311 Aldridge Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Henry L., Jr., & Elizabeth D. Anderson
103 Toll Gate Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

James O. Batte, Jr.
11026 Crestfield Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Emmett J. Boylan III
P.O. Box 12641
Huntsville, Alabama 35815

Dr. Thomas A. Brindley
Department of Education
University of Alabama
Huntsville, Alabama 35899

Gann Bryan
14024 Coys Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Charles A. Caldwell
Box 5226 700 Monroe Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35814

Michael W. Campbell
1804 Gaslight Way
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Margaret M. Cole
6320 Whitesburgh
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

Michael R. Dalen
113 Simmons
Owens Cross Roads, Alabama 35763

Leroy S. Heston
3608 Grote Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35805

Ray C. Holder
7020 Lauderdale Road
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

Jesse T. Horton
11207 Mountain Crest Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Charles M. Hubbert
1910 Crepe Myrtle Green
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Jack V. Johnson
Star Route, Box 344
Laceys Spring, Alabama 35754

Jan J. Johnson
P.O. Box 228
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674

Bob Keefe
Route 18, Box 1080
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Mark M. McCreedy
Route 2, Box 187
Sheffield, Alabama 35661

Ruthanne Ortman

Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Nancy M. Rohr
10012 Louis Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Leigh R. Sanderson
Box 2022
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

Karen Schansman
Route 2, Box 300
Laceys Spring, Alabama 35754

James E. Thayer
2500 Redstone Road
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Lawrence J. Thomson
Star Route, Box 431
Laceys Spring, Alabama 35754

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
MARCH 20, 1991

Larry A. and Martha L. Woodworth
8117 Strong Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

RLP-4806L

OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Public Workshop

March 21, 1991

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Ability to observe wildlife and surrounding ecosystem

Accessibility to the river and abundant water for recreation

Reservoir lands and overall beauty to the surrounding area

The availability of water recreation and beauty

Clean water (2)

The ability to draw tourist/trade to the area and therefore money is due to recreation opportunity

Industry and accessibility for industry

Wildlife--hunting, fishing--observation

Recreation areas and water resources

Water quality--clean water

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

Priority 2

Boating--sailboats

Wildlife habitat--and everything

Recreation opportunities for general public

Likes it just the way it is--mix of opportunity

State parks on lakes for recreation

Recreation

Industrial opportunity, but lake's beauty and cleanliness needs to stay intact

Recreation opportunities for general public (2)

Preservation and land use

Preservation of the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge

Recreation opportunities--hunting, fishing, boating

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 1

Priority 3

Ability to have parties and picnics with friends on lakefront

Noncommercialized areas surrounding lake (3)

Clean water

Ease of dealing with TVA about property around the lake

Flood control--Courtland and Town Creek area

Agriculture and agriculture marketing--barging grain

Beauty of river and undeveloped areas

Flood control

Recreation--hunting, fishing, boating

State parks

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Impose stiff fines for litter and polluting--not done now

Better regulation of water and air pollution

More access to water for boating--more launching ramps

Paint Rock and Flint River property should be used for waterfowl refuge and/or hunting, or combination--like Middlebrook, Pennsylvania has

More local participation in recreation planning

Clean up areas along river--specifically "Lock A" in Lawrence County--it's trashy and weedy

Add larger parking area for boat trailer--Bluff City

Allow private owner adjacent to TVA lake property to have access (road) to the water and other minor uses of land

Stiff fines for those who pollute

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 2

Allow private owner adjacent to TVA lake property to have access (road) to the water and other minor uses of land and give adjacent owners more use of that land

TVA should provide more strict control over types of industries locating around river--wants fewer chemical plants

More/better accessibility to lakefront area--roads, boat docks, launches, better signage

Priority 2

Preserve more land in perpetuity

Improve operation of flood control system

Bring back recreation planning for local communities

Round Island Creek and Mud Creek area turned over to the state and managed as hunting or refuge or both

Cut numbers in TVA chain of command and streamline management (2)

Make some undeveloped land made available for development in Lawrence County

More picnic and park area in Morgan County (2)

See more marina's and general facilities-boat launches, gas, food, for public use

Improvement of all launch areas, specifically Cowford Landing--needs lights and docking facility, windbreak

Enlarge zone near Wheeler borders to enlarge Wheeler Refuge

Improve boating safety

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Draw bridge at Decatur will be replaced

No more industrial development on Wheeler

More private recreation facilities--marinas

The existing industrial park in Decatur will be developed before another industrial park is started

Add another bridge between Decatur and Whitesburg. There is a proposal for a toll bridge in existence

A beautiful shoreline with clean water--available recreation areas (marinas, restaurants, piers, boat launches)

Fifty/Fifty balance in Lawrence County between recreation and public use

No waterfront development from Decatur to Champion Paper Mill (industrial development)

Recreation areas available for public use and clean shorelines

Much cleaner water

No waterfront industrial development from Champion Paper Mill to Wheeler Dam

Priority 2

A development plan where heavy industry causes less impact on the environment

More wildlife and waterfowl areas developed on the river, especially hardwood bottomland

More land devoted to single and family housing--housing is a problem in Lawrence County

Some land developed with strict guidelines for industry

Possible development of Spring Creek and "Lock A" by private developers

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 1

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 2

Add all land touching Wheeler Refuge to Wheeler Refuge and any land in close proximity

Wheeler Refuge will be at least the same size it is today (2)

Priority 3

Possible development of other areas of Wheeler reservoir by private developers (housing, golf courses, tourist attractions)

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Major natural resource providing jobs, location for industry, recreation, and tourism opportunities (2)

Cheap electricity

Fresh clean water

Recreation--walking, enjoying wildlife (2)

Fishing (2)

Flood control

Fish and wildlife diversity--plant species (2)

Hunting

Priority 2

Fishing

Jobs

Boating (2)

Water power

Camping, boating

Wildlife--plants and animals (2)

Remoteness--naturalness

Source of drinking water for large population

Opportunity for "town" people to get away and enjoy nature

Public recreation uses of public lands--e.g., flying remote control airplane

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 1

Priority 3

Water sports--hunting, fishing (2)

Hardwoods--we will need in future

Scenic value

Industrial uses--e.g., power and transportation

Close availability to many people

Availability of water for variety of uses--drinking, industry, etc.

Educational value--U.S., natural, and Indian history

Integrity of river bank--protection from too much development

Availability of shoreline for public recreation

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Preserve our timber--it is already being destroyed (clearcutting)

Build more boat ramps--Highway 40 at Cotaco Creek and another east of Decatur

Improve control of nonpoint source pollution--e.g., stop leasing land for grazing, or at least restrict animal access to free flowing streams

Protect shallow water areas for waterfowl (bald eagles, herons, osprey, waterfowl, etc.) for feeding

Concerned about effects of hunting on wildlife--is it harmful?

TVA should publicize low-cost recreation opportunities--e.g., hiking. Need to improve these opportunities--more trails. Educate public about what is available, when.

Build boat ramps in Lawrence County--i.e., cannot get boat across ditch at Spring Creek, Swope Pond

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 1 (continued)

TVA should bring pressure to bear to reduce municipal/industrial pollution

Open up areas for boating and recreation (implement on private lands)--improve launching ramps and parking--maybe attract a marina

More game wardens--more protection for wildlife and safety of recreation users

TVA should designate sites for industrial development--property east of Wheeler Dam to Champion Paper

Priority 2

Fish attractors--e.g., stake beds and identify with buoy markers

More deputies to safeguard the public and the environment

Improve forest management--pine timber improvements--now too afraid of cutting. Need to thin, prescribe fire--to enhance wildlife habitat

Decrease damage of ORV's--e.g., fish hatchery area in Limestone County (on Elk)--prohibit if possible

Public access road to Cotaco Creek midway between Highway 40 and 36

Increase water level from September to April 15

Assist in developing specific recreation areas to provide public access--closed section of Joe Wheeler Park west of dam, Spring Creek area, old Lawrence County Park, Goldfilled Branch, and Mallard Creek

Flexibility in plans for economic development--capitalize on unforeseen opportunities

Keep gates open--fill in ditches preventing access to water

"Lobby" to get areas dedicated for public parks that have historical value--e.g., Bluff City

Natural aquatic plants for fish and wildlife

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 3

Better management of farmland--regulate pesticides

Buy boat ramp from Wildlife Refuge at Sharp's Ford Landing--too political now

Protect bottomland hardwoods (2)

Limit areas of industrial development--make land available to state, local government, or private entity to build boat launching areas with security for parked vehicles--could sell bait

Develop a program to better police the reservoir--prevent garbage dumping, littering. Also, provide disposal facilities at patrolled sites

Release land around Decatur for residential development

Encourage private entrepreneurs, municipalities, counties to develop marinas, boat launches, etc.

Assist private landowners with identifying their property to prevent trespassing by other recreation users

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Well-planned, mixed use development around the reservoir--with room for wildlife, industry, recreation use

Lawrence County would be capitalizing on economic development potential of Wheeler

Better recreation development plan, including park sites, boat launches, and historical sites, with historical significance identified (2)

Better parks, more facilities and public access

Shoreline would be as natural as possible--with clean water, uncluttered (no trash) and abundant wildlife

Preserve natural appearance while providing access for public use--do not need a lot of heavy industry

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 2

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 1

Limited major development--residential, industrial, or recreational. Keep small to preserve naturalness

Identify industrial sites (recognizing areas economic needs)--develop them--leave the rest alone

No more homes and industry on TVA property

Priority 2

Free of garbage and dump sites

TVA would patrol shoreline--clean it up

Several egret and heron nesting sites and bald eagles year-round

Identify high-quality industrial sites and use them--leave the rest alone (3)

Clean usable recreation areas planned for maximum use, diversified (something for everyone)

Identify areas where erosion is a problem--problems would be corrected

Bring back fish hatcheries that we used to have

Create partnerships with local governments and organizations in carrying out Wheeler plan

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 3

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Habitat for wildlife--for observation and fishing (3)

Growth to North Alabama--jobs, recreation, wildlife, etc.

Water sports--fishing, boating, swimming/public recreation (4)

Fishing (2)

Beauty of area (2)

Priority 2

Fishing

Boating

Growth of North Alabama

Recreation--boating, swimming, cookouts

Wildlife habitat for observation (3)

Clean water

Hunting

Personal investment in lake land

Ease of access by land by car

Natural beauty

Priority 3

Recreational opportunities--swimming, boating, etc. (5)

Lack of shoreline development (2)

Job opportunities from river

Personal investment in lake land--land would be worth less without lake

Public parks

Watching the sunset

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 3

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

More programs for wildlife protection and conservation

More land set aside/given to refuge and park systems (3)

Better, more consistent treatment by property management staff on questions involving use of TVA land (sometimes cordial, sometimes not). Treated like invader

Better public ramps, piers, parks--ramps are torn up, broken

More water access privileges for adjacent property owners--piers, docks, and other facilities--Tract 14 (2)

Stop raising/lowering water all the time--ruins fishing

Release more land for homes

More and better public access ramps, picnic areas (3)

Release land of no value to TVA for homesites

Remove lake and land use restrictions that are outdated, i.e., safety harbors--Tract 14 on map (2)

Better management of fishing and hunting, especially wildlife refuges (stop trying to get rid of milfoil--feed ducks and wildlife)

Greater emphasis on water quality river cleanup

Priority 2

More land for public use such as parks

Cleaner water, cleaner shoreline--pollution, trash, sewage is a shame!

More land given to county for recreation--ramps

Improved boat launching

TVA take the lead on public education on littering

Set aside land to keep natural environment

Change lake fluctuation policy--keep lake up longer (April-November at higher level)--fluctuate lake about 2 feet

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 3

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Cleaner shoreline--less pollution, litter

More wetlands preserved (Cataco Creek, Flint Creek, and areas around Swann Creek)

Adjacent landowners will then have right to use TVA land in front of them for piers and other facilities (3)

Better and more parks, piers, access areas, but do not make me wait ten years!

No more industry on the lake

More land released and developed for homes

Beautification of shoreline--clean it up (4)

Large areas of natural land preserved

No more industry on lake (2)

Restriction of industry on river--do not let them clear and develop to water's edge; control industrial growth--do not let polluters in

Balance between natural areas and development with pollution controls

More public piers and access facilities

More private subdivisions on river

Priority 2

Increased natural resources--10-year-old trees where it is bare now

No net growth in industrial use

More involvement with local government--more local parks (3)

Contamination of shoreline prevented, i.e., rules/restrictions on barge shipment, oil and chemical barges

Erosion control (3)

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 4

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

High quality water--lots of it

Wildlife and water recreation

Economic value of water supply--industrial, municipal, recreation

Recreation--public boat launch, public campgrounds

Priority 2

Improve and expand wildlife management--expand Swan Creek management area and protect Mallard Fox Creek area

Indian artifacts--more collections if possible--where collectors stand, what can collectors do?

Natural beauty--cleanliness

TVA keep land between private ownership and lake clean--valued previous privileges of using land

Value beauty and need an aggressive program to keep it that way

Preservation of hardwood forest, wetlands

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Promote citizen concern groups to take interest in TVA land and waterway

Industry should not be allowed to locate without adequate treatment facilities (closer partnership with state to ensure contamination will be eliminated)

Additional parks such as McFarland--including boat ramps

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 4

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 2

Increased emphasis toward water quality improvement

Clean up lake--no dumps, control sewage into lake, "rat" on violators

Review TVA policy on use of TVA lands by adjacent landowners

Develop vegetative strips along lake--green strips

Become involved in landfill locations to keep water clean

Priority 3

Halt industrial development

Property improvement--public boat ramp on south side of river (Morgan County)--additional boat ramps (public)

Redevelop Spring Creek--restaurant, overnight facilities, boat ramps, boat slips

Be more aggressive in water quality--such as modification of turbine discharge

Release lands in wildlife refuge to provide private waterfront property--use proceeds to expand wildlife habitat

Improvement of wildlife habitat on TVA property

Control point and nonpoint pollution

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Beautiful clean-flowing river with no more industry

No more shore industrial development

Maturing hardwood stands (TVA lands)

Establish nursery or provide seedlings to landowners in area

Nice home sites

Private hotel, marina

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 4

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Industrial and commercial development on waterfront

Flooded hardwood areas in winter

More milfoil

Clean water that will promote tourist recreation--improved stocking of fish--beautiful forest--wildlife

Expand management areas for wildlife--similar to Swan Creek area

Fewer nuclear plants on shorelines

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 5

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Number of jobs created--because water transportation is available

Availability of recreation opportunity--helps economic opportunities in the area

Source of fresh water for human consumption--possibly in trouble because of industrial development/barge traffic

Water quality is not bad compared to other places, but may be getting bad

Main source of cheap electricity--through hydro generation

Open spaces--wooded and water areas--lots of open land around Decatur

Environmental Quality seems to be okay

Vegetation of all kinds that provide different habitats and cleans the air--wooded to aquatic

Attractiveness to industry--water transportation

Abundance of clean water for industry or homes

Fishing--boating recreation and clean water for fish to survive in

Priority 2

Wildlife--a sanctuary for wildlife--able to watch them--a safe home for wildlife

Wildlife--like to see ducks and geese--watch them

Diversity of recreation opportunity is an economic value--people do not need to drive far to recreate

Wildlife--a sanctuary--we know that they are here even if we do not see them

Recreation--boating and fishing

Wildlife--like to watch them (ducks)

Having areas for retriever trial training

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 5

QUESTION NO. 1

Priority 2 (continued)

Recreation--all of it--skiing, fishing, hunting

Wildlife habitat which serves multiple purposes--serves as a buffer between human developments such as between Decatur and Huntsville

Keeping the water quality clean, especially from industry

Value archaeological resources for study of prehistory

Priority 3

Bass fishing--large mouth

Abundant supply of water, especially for agricultural irrigation

The availability of public land (Cataco Creek, Flint River, etc.) for public use

Maybe TVA should hold on to the public land it owns--for public use and future generations

Keep public land in public ownership for public use

Ownership of waterfront property

Water--as a resource in itself just because it is here

Ability to irrigate agricultural crops form lake water and groundwater

Recreational land and water wildlife refuge, etc., natural resource recreation opportunity

Important to have clean water

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Identify a program to stop river users from trashing the area

Like to see TVA sell property that is a "few feet" in front of private and lot owners (about 40 feet of TVA land between water and private land--now a safety harbor)--Freeman Acres

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 5

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 1 (continued)

Put greater thrust on quality of life in Valley and maybe not so much on development

Review use of safety harbor designations at Freeman Acres--is it really needed?

Let private property owners who adjoin narrow tract of TVA land buy them

Allow private property owners more use of riverfront areas down to water--boat docks

The public land is being used--part of our environment--cleans the air, provides habitat. Even if people are not on it, it provides benefit

Need campgrounds with water and toilets--but not the highly developed campgrounds

Sell certain sections to individuals to build homes on with a minimum value

Priority 2

Look at aspect of tracts under two acres being made available for certain private uses, but not sold--maybe sold

Promote new industry as long as we do not see it, taste it, smell it, hear it

New state/city park on south bank of Tennessee River

Catch litterers and lock up--pressure local police to do better patrol job

Priority 3

More lake access ramps

More information to the public about TVA programs and what public can or cannot do on TVA land

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 5

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

More enforcement of litter laws, and a cleaner shoreline

Clean banks and trails, wildlife refuge roads

Development on river be minimized, especially industry that pollutes water

Clean water, clean land (2)

Look much like it does today--if more houses and smoke stacks, we made a mistake

Look like it did ten years ago--used to look better than it does today--changes are frightening

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 6

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Recreational facilities--boating, fishing, serving wildlife, hunting (5)

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge--no further encroachments, no development

Flood control

Priority 2

Wheeler Wildlife Refuge should remain as it is today--no encroachments (2)

Additional home sites--recreation opportunities

Current mix of opportunities on reservoir--residential, commercial, and industrial

Keep shoreline in wilderness state--200 yards of no development on shoreline

Existing industrial development and strict controls on existing additional development

The undeveloped part of the reservoir

Priority 3

Opportunities to observe wildlife

Industrial facilities that are here now and future development (2)

Flood control

Water supply that Wheeler provides

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 6

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Because there is so much encroachment on undeveloped TVA land and developed wildlife land--should protect all lands it has control over--better protect these lands--keep undeveloped

More recreational boat ramps on the south side of river

Improve TVA management by better communication with public before anything happens--notify public of actions and plans

Improve and possibly expand fishing, hunting, camping at Mallard Fox and Swan Creek

Priority 2

Implement all corrective and maintenance measures to help with improving water quality--example: erosion control, buffer strips and additional inflows into river

More boat ramps and public access areas on south side of river

Educate recreational public about pollution

Improve existing public park areas--better promotion for use

No new boat ramps within Wheeler Refuge

Priority 3

Provide better access to TVA lands--maybe purchase access to roads to get to areas

Provide garbage containers at boat ramps (2)

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

See the shoreline unchanged on lands within the Wheeler Refuge

See the industrial development that comes, be "clean" industry--TVA needs to help recruit this type of pollution-controlled industry

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 6

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 1

No changes along undeveloped TVA land and developed wildlife land--such as Wheeler Refuge

See the reservoir as natural as possible

Stop erosion

See it basically as is now with the exception of less garbage

No further development

Priority 2

Improved recreational facilities at Swann Creek--fishing, hunting

Better education to prevent recreational and industrial pollution--public awareness

See more public access to river--shoreline should be for public recreation purposes

Have the enterprise "beam up" Browns Ferry

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 7

QUESTION NO. 1

What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

Priority 1

Undeveloped portions around Wheeler Reservoir

Recreational opportunities

Flood control (2)

Natural environment

Relatively clean water

Clean water

Fishing opportunities

Priority 2

Cultural resources

Flood control/drought mitigation--constant water supply

Recreation

Wildlife preservation

Multi-use opportunities

Economical energy

Hunting

Priority 3

Fauna and flora

Nature preserve (2)

Recreation

Flood control--hydro power

Industrial growth potential

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 7

QUESTION NO. 2

What improvements and changes to the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

Priority 1

Take responsible measures to protect and mitigate the damaged and threatened cultural resources (2)

Be allowed to improve land between privately owned and the reservoir--mowing, moving buildings, etc.

Closer scrutiny of designations of floodplains and flood zones

Improvement of coordination between reservoirs when potential flooding is imminent

Maximize amount of acreage available for public use around reservoir--hold what you have, purchase if necessary

Preservation of shoreline and old growth timber

Need more personnel for land management activities and enforcement

Clean up the river

Priority 2

Limit commercial development along reservoir

Clean up sore spots

Better coordination with other agencies to protect existing land use and structures

Clean up and then control pollution

Better control of wildlife populations--prevent over or under population

Balance industrial/commercial development with environmental impacts

Better enforcement of all industrial and private dumping of materials in river whether solids or liquids, especially industry. End result: cleaner and safer water

Ensure that lumbering operations remove resulting debris from creeks and floodplains

Work with state fisheries on stocking programs

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 7

QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 3

Place large portions of reservoir property into wilderness areas

Provide more clean safe swimming areas

Provide citizens hotline for communication during emergencies

Improve water cleanness and sanitation for swimming, boating, skiing, etc.

Enlarge TVA management area to include the entire watershed

Manage and control aquatic plants for best benefit of fish, waterfowl, people, etc.

Improve signing and marking of TVA property lines and posting of rules

QUESTION NO. 3

What should the shoreland of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

Priority 1

Little or no difference from today's development picture

Cleaner shoreline (2)

Recreation and housing located in optimal sites and industrial development in areas not suitable for other two

Some additional development for housing, but in conjunction with additional provision for wildlife needs

Little or no difference from today's development picture--but cleaner, neater

More shoreline in natural condition

Shoreline more stabilized and preserved (2)

DECATUR--OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
March 21, 1991
Group No. 7

QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 2

Shoreline stabilized

More public launching areas with easy access and managed by TVA

Developed means to control meander of river

Little or no additional residential or commercial development on shoreline

Better funding for TVA to maintain shoreline

Priority 3

Browns Ferry on line

More marinas, but without additional environmental impact

Better energy storing technology developed--nuclear no longer necessary (2)

RLP-4806L

HUNTSVILLE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
DECATUR, ALABAMA
MARCH 21, 1991

Cathy B. Beasley
704 Norton Drive
Athens, Alabama 35611

James R. Bland
2012 Magnolia
Decatur, Alabama 35601

W. David Carraway
6969 County Road 170
Trinity, Alabama 35673

Paul E. Chism, Jr.
P.O. Box 1851
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Linda B. Clevinger
517 Ferry Street, NE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Vic P. Daily
109 Bobwhite Drive, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35603

J. C. Davis
Route 2 P.O. Drawer 9
Decatur, Alabama 35606

James S. Davis
1801 Corrine Avenue, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Ron Eakes
P.O. Box 775
Moulton, Alabama 35650

Muriel T. Ellis
810 Gordon Drive, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

James H. English, Jr.
104 Raymond Street, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Roger H. Ferrell
P.O. Box 2304
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Leon Felts
P.O. Drawer C
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Janie H. Field
Route 4, Box 231
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Roy B. Freeman
1001 County Road 415
Town Creek, Alabama 35672

Edward C. Garce
2311 Springdale Road, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Euel G. Garrison
1632 Willow Bend Place
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Jack R. Garrison
P.O. Box 245
Somerville, Alabama 35670

Wayne Gentry

Moulton, Alabama 35650

Charles R. Griffin
Box 7777, Highway 17
Maylene, Alabama 35114

John H. Gustafson
127 Rivermont Bend
Somerville, Alabama 35670

Thomas S. Hand
1615 12th Street, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Stanley D. Hand
2070 Highway 31 South
Athens, Alabama 35611

Murray H. Harris
850 County Road 417
Courtland, Alabama 35618

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
DECATUR, ALABAMA
MARCH 21, 1991

Fred W. Hauck
1235 Brandywine Lane
Decatur, Alabama 35601

George E. Hill
1917 7th Street, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Jimmy D. and Brenda J. Hitt
1308 Alpine Street, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35603

John G. Howell
4305 Autumn Leaves Trail
Decatur, Alabama 35603

J. Luer Johnson
807 9th Street, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Tom R. Jones
1707 Edgewood Street, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Toby N. Joseph
1513 20th Avenue, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Elizabeth L. Kelly
Route 2, River Road
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Van D. King, Jr.
Route 1, Box 241
Horton, Alabama 35980

James H. Lemay
1015 Crestline Place
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Tony Q. Lentz
6104 County Road 434
Trinity, Alabama 35673

Frank A. Loscalfo
3105 Sumac Road
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Larry W. LouAllen
1974 County Road 177
Moulton, Alabama 35650

Elizabeth L. Malone
1817 Eastmeade Avenue, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Mark A. Mann
P.O. Box 2804
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Nancy P. Martin
1010 Hillside Circle, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Ronald Matthews
Box C
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Paul P. and Olga H. McCain
2202 Fleetwood Drive, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Sam J. and Louise B. McClure
2233 Old River Road
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Charles P. McCughun
1802 5th Avenue, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Troy E. McCutchen
115 Rivermont Bend North
Somerville, Alabama 35670

Gayno D. McKelvey
110 Woodland Terrace
Moulton, Alabama 35650

Randy M. Milam
778 Danville Road, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Roy B. Mitchell
3164 Glenmere Place, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35603

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
DECATUR, ALABAMA
MARCH 21, 1991

Tony W. Moore
725 Beltline Road
Decatur, Alabama 35602

B. O. and Mary O. Morgan
802 Ashley Drive, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Mickey C. Moseley
105 County Road 517
Moulton, Alabama 35650

Mace Neal
P.O. Box C
Decatur, Alabama 35601

William A. and Nancy J. Norton
1803 8th Avenue, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

P. Braxton Perrin
1316 Stratford Road, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Michael S. Queen
Route 1, Box 148-A
Falkville, Alabama 35622

James R. Ray
1304 Fletcher Avenue, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Jack C. Russell
Route 3, Box 81
Somerville, Alabama 35670

Mike Salinero
921 Cedar Street, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Bill S. Sandlin
104 Hamaker
Decatur, Alabama 35603

John B. Sewell, Jr.
P.O. Box 188
Belle Mina, Alabama 35615

Billy W. Shelton
2322 County Road 87
Moulton, Alabama 35650

Harold W. Smith
1030 Sherman Street
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Jimmy W. Speegle
Route 2, Box 159
Somerville, Alabama 35670

Ernest F. Stroh
707 Holland Drive, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Charles H. Taylor
Route 1, 201 Shagbark Trail
Somerville, Alabama 35670

Bobby Terry
1207 Vaughn Bridge Road
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Freddie P. Thomas
2705 Lincoya Circle
Decatur, Alabama 35603

F. Philip Thomas
1304 13th Avenue, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Avery J. Thornhill
P.O. Box 2026
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Lyle C. Tom
1616 Woodland Street, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Theodore F. Trussell
Route 2, Box 296
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Julian R. Walker
1800 Point Mallard Drive, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

WHEELER PUBLIC WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
DECATUR, ALABAMA
MARCH 21, 1991

Robert C. Walker, Jr.
P.O. Box 488
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Sigi Walker
2208 Burningtree Drive, SE
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Dudley A. White
Route 1, Box 76
Tanner, Alabama 35640

Warren E. White
Route 6, Box 478-A
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

M. Sonny Wright
P.O. Box 2419
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Troy M. Wyers
1806 Eastwood Drive
Decatur, Alabama 35601

John L. Yates
P.O. Box 147
Town Creek, Alabama 35672

Chuck J. Zanda
104 Hamaker Circle, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35603

SUMMARY

Evaluation of all Public Workshops

SUMMARY

EVALUATION OF ALL PUBLIC WORKSHOPS
(171 Evaluation Forms Returned)

1. I WAS INFORMED ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP BY (check all that apply):

67 Mail
73 Newspaper
4 Radio
72 Friends
12 Other (please explain)

Comments:

(1) I called people and asked them to come; (2) daughter (from school); (3) may send out issues for community group input. Would have been glad to bring issues before my community and brought their concerns to the meeting; (4) from Morgan County, (5) concerned citizen of Limestone County; (6) met J. Scott Atkins at Elk River Fish Hatchery, got schedule at Bellefonte Nuclear Plant; (7) Newspaper article was in plenty of time to plan; (8) keep me on the mailing list; (9) TVA staff; (10) call by Spencer Boardman; (11) TVA spokesman. (12) I didn't see or hear of any newspaper or radio announcements; (13) Senator Heflin; (14) would like to have known sooner. More people would have been able to attend; (15) friends received the letter--told me--I saw announcement of time and location in newspaper; (16) the majority of public more than likely wasn't informed; (17) Decatur Daily. (18) Clean water--very good--not with dirt; (19) I value the cleanness of water and recreation spot for picnicking; (20) need more information on meetings at other sites--Pickwick Reservoir specifically; (21) Chamber of Commerce; (22) observed in Sunday newspaper write-ups; (23) place notices at sporting and bait shops; (24) it was over a week ago--should have been put in paper again last 2 days with time, etc.; (25) Truitt Fore; (26) by spouse--TVA employee; (27) Danny Johnson; (28) requested packet; (29) work-related contact with TVA.

2. I WAS PROVIDED ENOUGH INFORMATION ABOUT HIS PLANNING PROJECT PRIOR TO THE WORKSHOP TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY.

24 strongly agree
77 agree
29 not sure
25 disagree
5 strongly disagree

Comments:

(1) What are TVA's future plans; (2) have enjoyed this exchange of opinions muchly--Agree with all; (3) I was not provided information, but was able to participate to my satisfaction; (4) information too general to a town/local forum; (5) I would like to have had a map a

few days prior to the meeting; (6) did not have access to public media during preliminary period; (7) since we're the last lake to plan, information on prior plans would be nice; (8) just heard about it a few days ago from a good friend who filled us in; and (9) needed a map showing lands to be planned. (10) Brochures could have been provided. Also facts and figures with regard to current land use; (11) what I was provided was from friend; (12) didn't find out from publication; (13) did not receive letter--did get some information from friends; (14) did not have any information; (15) I had to call TVA office to have information mailed to me. It would have helped to have background on Wheeler Reservoir to answer the questions effectively. (16) Could have used more; (17) none provided; (18) received no information; (19) at opening introduction clarified what was to be format; (20) would have appreciated a more thorough review of exactly what lands were under review; (21) I didn't see article in paper. Heard about workshop from friend; (22) I wasn't able to obtain material; (23) reviewed packet before meeting; (24) very good advance notice.

3. OUR SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR DID A GOOD JOB KEEPING THE GROUP FOCUSED ON EACH OF THE THREE QUESTIONS.

97 strongly agree
61 agree
3 not sure
3 disagree
1 strongly disagree

Comments:

(1) Very good facilitator, kept the group focused; (2) very well kept meeting, friendly and informative; (3) very good speaker; (4) well informed and fair, good job; (5) outstanding facilitator; (6) very polite, very intelligent, very helpful; (7) enjoyed the process; (8) he's good; (9) yes; (10) Very good job. (11) Good job; (12) real good job; (13) did an excellent job; (14) very good, did not let thing get carried away; (15) professional, but helpful; (16) extremely good; (17) participants did their best to sidetrack group; (18) Bob Curtis did a very good job encouraging everyone to take part; (19) good job; (20) excellent job.

4. OUR SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR PROVIDED GUIDANCE WITHOUT INTERJECTING HIS OR HER PERSONAL OPINIONS.

100 strongly agree
63 agree
2 not sure
1 disagree
1 strongly disagree

Comments:

(1) Outstanding facilitator; (2) made everybody feel their comments were important; (3) fielded some tough questions with poise and good manners. (4) Very helpful in clarifying and rephrasing other peoples comments. (5) OK; (6) was careful not to give opinions; (7) very good; (8) good job; (9) excellent job.

5. AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF TIME WAS PROVIDED FOR EACH QUESTION.

76 strongly agree
76 agree
6 not sure
3 disagree
1 strongly disagree

Comments

(1) We had to hurry a little, but that was because there were so many ideas. (2) Well done. (3) OK; (4) yes; (5) usually finished early; (6) yes; (7) moved right along; (8) plenty of time.

6. PLEASE GIVE US ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP.

Comments

(1) Keep Lucy's Branch Park open; (2) I hope new lodging facilities are built, leave the wetlands alone. Some beauty should be left for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren; (3) facilitator was well-trained. This is a very good input workshop. Thanks; (4) Very good workshop; (5) very good; (6) very good; (7) enjoyed this meeting muchly; (8) good for the people to have a say; (9) an excellent opportunity for the public input; (10) Tere McDonough--very good at keeping control of meeting; (11) I would have liked to have more time to prepare for this workshop; (12) you people with TVA have done splendid job over the years. Keep up the good work. Thank you; (13) I appreciate the opportunity this process offers; (14) very good, well conducted, very informative, (15) very good, need more meetings like this; (16) I appreciate this opportunity and sincerely hope that TVA will continue its use of the format with more such meetings; (17) questions were somewhat limited in scope, but we expanded with our input; (18) keep us informed and don't develop TVA lands with unsightly or polluting facilities; (19) keep the public informed; (20) would be more help if we knew a little more about the actual land over concerned; (21) it was good that we had the opportunity to voice our opinions and ideas; (22) good discussion--input from all participants; (23) we the people of Paradise Shores appreciate your concern about our concerns; (24) good opportunity for public input in a noncontinuous atmosphere; (25) more time than I can possibly use, questions overlap in scope, some of these people don't know what they want; (26) great--do it more often; (27) thanks to TVA for providing this public forum; (28) too repetitive; (29) very

positive and optimistic; (30) I appreciate the invitation; (31) TVA is not perfect--but it is far better than other agencies in managing lands. I appreciate being part of this process. Could 3 meeting places be more widely dispersed; (32) enjoyed this meeting; (33) TVA should control waterfront use by leasing the land and requiring specific performance to keep the waterfront up for renewal of leases; (34) suggestions were excellent, hope TVA listens; (35) I hope this workshop and TVA efforts are real and a part of the future we can count on to take place--real honest effort by TVA; (36) most of the interest is or was from sportsman; (37) don't delay--act on this now. There has been enough delay; (38) focus for maximum citizen input. Catalyst for interaction was excellent. (39) Effective in gathering information from cross sectional group; (40) the publicity resulting from the newspaper article about the arrest of men picking up arrow points in Decatur was bad for TVA image to the general public; (41) credibility of process would in fact be enhanced by exact transcription of group comments and subsequent distribution to all participants; (42) wished more people could have participated. Don't believe that enough effort was made to inform people; (43) those people that did not attend missed a good chance to provide inputs; (44) very good--I wish more people had attended. Maybe on the ground spot surveys of fishermen, hunters, landowners, within 10 miles of reservoir, loggers, especially vehicle surveys at checkpoints where roads cross TVA lands, would be possible; (45) well organized and conducted; (46) an evening well worth attending--hope ideas are evaluated and used when possible; (47) good input, well handled. (48) Overall pretty good; (49) this was an enlightening session with good versity; (50) thanks for the opportunity; (51) very good; (52) more recreation and cleaner water; (53) very informative; (54) need to have more of these type meetings; (55) need more; (56) this type of process seems to represent a real improvement over my last experiences--teach the U.S. Forest Service this; (57) enlightening to hear other views--share ideas; (58) pleased to see public involvement; (59) wonderful if it gets any results--I have been to too many meetings that were just talk; (60) surprised it was held in first place--but it was best idea you've had in long time--good contact; (61) very good approach; (62) excellent, glad you listened to us before making up your minds; (63) very good; (64) very informative and interesting; (65) participants need more information pertaining to TVA and its purpose and function; (66) good session; (67) I hope we get results as soon as possible; (68) too much time wasted in preliminary chit chat--process of collecting information too slow. General session started 20 minutes late; (69) it was a very good workshop even though I had to leave before it was over; (70) this session too long; (71) very informative; (72) well done; (73) good that you have taken in the public in some of your planning; (74) please keep talking to us and listening to us; (75) appreciate the chance to have input to the future land use of TVA; (76) I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this planning. I hope TVA will continue to include the public prior to taking action; (77) a very good workshop was conducted; (78) very good approach.

SECTION 2

Analysis of Public Comments

SECTION 2

INTRODUCTION

Each individual comment reported in Section 1 is considered important in the reservoir planning process. In the following section, TVA staff has attempted to group similar responses to help develop a sense of priorities and predominant concerns in the reservoir area.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Question No. 1

QUESTION NO. 1

WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT WHEELER RESERVOIR?

Introduction

To acquire a level of importance for reservoir uses and characteristics most valued by the people who attended the workshops, TVA grouped similar responses to QUESTION 1 and assigned them weighted values based on the priorities given by the participants. Each time a value was listed as FIRST PRIORITY it was given three points; SECOND PRIORITY; two points; and THIRD PRIORITY, one point. The points were totaled to obtain an overall priority value. For example, if a value was mentioned as a top priority four times, second priority five times, and third priority six times, the PRIORITY VALUE would equal 28 (4x3 + 5x2 + 6x1 = 28). Comparison of priority values allowed staff to rank the responses to get a simple method of identifying the most important values expressed by the participants.

The following tables list 37 major categories of responses for each workshop (Priority 1, Priority 2, and Priority 3). A second "Summary Table" exhibits the top 10 responses in descending priority order for each of the three workshop locations. Table 4 titled, "All Workshops Combined" shows all 37 categories and their combined "priority value" in descending order. The input from the public workshops, along with

written comments received from agencies, organizations, and individuals, was combined with TVA program input to assist the Reservoir Lands Planning Core Team in formulating the planning goals and objectives for Wheeler Reservoir. The goals and objectives are included in Section 4 of this document (Page 216).

CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL

Workshop Results

Table 1-A

Table 1-B

Table 1-A

PUBLIC WORKSHOP RESULTS
CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL WORKSHOP

	CATEGORY	RESPONSES (from 8 small groups) Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	PRIORITY VALUE
1.	Scenic Quality/Shoreline Aesthetics/Serenity/ Quality of Life	20	9	3	81
2.	Fisheries/Fishing Opportunity	5	7	2	31
3.	Hunting Opportunity	3	0	0	9
4.	Boating/Skiing Opportunity	4	0	2	14
5.	General Recreation: hiking, picnicking, swimming, camping dog trials, etc.	15	10	5	70
6.	Wildlife Observation/Habitat Preservation/Refuge Area	2	3	4	16
7.	Preservation of Wetlands	1	0	0	3
8.	Wildlife Habitat/Game Management Areas	3	0	0	9
9.	Availability or Preservation of Public Land and Water Resources	1	3	2	11
10.	Flood Control	0	3	2	8
11.	Quality Water Supply (industrial, municipal)	2	0	0	6
12.	Clean Water/Debris Cleanup	4	9	6	36
13.	Economic Enhancement/ Development (jobs)	2	1	1	9
14.	Limiting Additional Industrial Growth (clustered, zoned away from residential, enforce environmental controls)	1	8	0	19
15.	Public Park Development	5	0	1	16
16.	Quality Commercial Recreation/ Tourism Development	0	0	0	0
17.	Lake Management (stable recreational water levels)	1	2	2	9
18.	Availability of Access to Public Lands (roads & trails)	2	1	3	11
19.	Accessibility to the Lake and Major Creeks	0	1	0	2
20.	Agricultural Opportunities	1	0	0	3
21.	Environmental Awareness/ Educational Opportunities	2	2	0	10
22.	Forest Management Activities (hardwoods)	0	0	0	0
23.	Availability of Barge Commerce/ Navigation Facilities	0	1	1	3
24.	Low-Cost Power Production	1	0	0	3

Table 1-A (continued)

PUBLIC WORKSHOP RESULTS
CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL WORKSHOP

CATEGORY	RESPONSES (from 8 small groups)			PRIORITY VALUE
	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	
25. Archaeological Awareness (do's and don'ts)/ Cultural Interpretation	1	0	0	3
26. Public Participation Into Planning or Zoning Process	0	4	0	8
27. Residential Development Opportunities	1	1	0	5
28. Noncommercial Public Campgrounds/Camping Opportunities	1	7	0	17
29. Designated ORV Areas	1	0	0	3
30. Soil Erosion Control	0	0	0	0
31. TVA Maps and Informational Brochures	0	0	1	1
32. Good Air Quality	1	0	0	3
33. Enhanced Value of Private Lakefront Property	0	0	0	0
34. Security and Enforcement on TVA Public Lands	0	2	0	4
35. Lake Free of Aquatic Plants	0	0	0	0
36. Reservoir Not Being Overcrowded	1	0	0	3
37. Ease of Dealing With TVA	0	0	0	0

Table 1-B

CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL SUMMARY
TOP TEN RESPONSES
(84 Participants)

	CATEGORY ITEM	TOTAL SMALL GROUP RESPONSES Pr.1	Pr.2	Pr.3	=	Total	TOTAL WEIGHTED PRIORITY VALUE
1.	Scenic Quality/Shoreline Aesthetics/Serenity/ Quality of Life	20	9	3	=	32	81
2.	General Recreation: hiking, picnicking, swimming, camping, dog trials, etc.	15	10	5	=	30	70
3.	Clean Water/Debris Cleanup	4	9	6	=	19	36
4.	Fisheries/Fishing Opportunity	5	7	2	=	14	31
5.	Limiting Additional Industrial Growth (clustered, zoned away from residential, enforce environmental controls)	1	8	0	=	9	19
6.	Noncommercial Public Campgrounds/Camping Opportunities	1	7	0	=	8	17
7.	Public Park Development	5	0	1	=	6	16
	Wildlife Observation/Habitat Preservation/Refuge Areas	2	3	4	=	9	16
8.	Boating/Skiing Opportunity	4	0	2	=	6	14
9.	Availability of Access to Public Lands (roads and trails)	2	1	3	=	6	11
	Availability or Preservation of Public Land and Water Resources	1	3	2	=	6	11
10.	Environmental Awareness/ Educational Opportunities	2	2	0	=	4	10

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HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Workshop Results

Table 2-A

Table 2-B

Table 2-A

PUBLIC WORKSHOP RESULTS
HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL WORKSHOP

	CATEGORY	RESPONSES (from 4 small groups) Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	PRIORITY VALUE
1.	Scenic Quality/Shoreline Aesthetics/Serenity/ Quality of Life	5	3	2	23
2.	Fisheries/Fishing Opportunity	1	1	1	6
3.	Hunting Opportunity	0	1	0	2
4.	Boating/Skiing Opportunity	2	1	1	9
5.	General Recreation: hiking, picnicking, swimming, camping dog trials, etc.	2	2	2	12
6.	Wildlife Observation/Habitat Preservation/Refuge Area	3	2	3	16
7.	Preservation of Wetlands	1	0	0	3
8.	Wildlife Habitat/Game Management Areas	1	1	1	6
9.	Availability or Preservation of Public Land and Water Resources	2	2	3	13
10.	Flood Control	1	0	0	3
11.	Quality Water Supply (industrial, municipal)	0	0	0	0
12.	Clean Water/Debris Cleanup	0	0	0	0
13.	Economic Enhancement/ Development (jobs)	0	1	1	3
14.	Limiting Additional Industrial Growth (clustered, zoned away from residential, enforce environmental controls)	0	0	0	0
15.	Public Park Development	0	0	0	0
16.	Quality Commercial Recreation/ Tourism Development	1	1	0	5
17.	Lake Management (stable recreational water levels)	0	0	0	0
18.	Availability of Access to Public Lands (roads & trails)	0	0	0	0
19.	Accessibility to the Lake and Major Creeks	0	0	0	0
20.	Agricultural Opportunities	0	0	1	1
21.	Environmental Awareness/ Educational Opportunities	1	0	0	3
22.	Forest Management Activities (hardwoods)	0	0	0	0
23.	Availability of Barge Commerce/ Navigation Facilities	0	0	0	0
24.	Low-Cost Power Production	0	1	0	2

Table 2-A (continued)

PUBLIC WORKSHOP RESULTS
HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL WORKSHOP

CATEGORY	RESPONSES (from 4 small groups)			PRIORITY VALUE
	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	
25. Archaeological Awareness (do's and don'ts)/ Cultural Interpretation	1	1	0	5
26. Public Participation Into Planning or Zoning Process	0	0	0	0
27. Residential Development Opportunities	0	0	1	1
28. Noncommercial Public Campgrounds/Camping Opportunities	0	0	0	0
29. Designated ORV Areas	0	0	0	0
30. Soil Erosion Control	0	0	0	0
31. TVA Maps and Informational Brochures	0	1	0	2
32. Good Air Quality	0	0	0	0
33. Enhanced Value of Private Lakefront Property	0	0	1	1
34. Security and Enforcement on TVA Public Lands	0	0	0	0
35. Lake Free of Aquatic Plants	0	0	1	1
36. Reservoir Not Being Overcrowded	0	0	0	0
37. Ease of Dealing With TVA	0	0	0	0

Table 2-B

HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SUMMARY
TOP TEN RESPONSES
(25 Participants)

	CATEGORY ITEM	TOTAL SMALL GROUP RESPONSES Pr.1	Pr.2	Pr.3	=	Total	TOTAL WEIGHTED PRIORITY VALUE
1.	Scenic Quality/Shoreline Aesthetics/Serenity/ Quality of Life	5	3	2	=	10	23
2.	Wildlife Observation/Habitat Preservation/Refuge Areas	3	2	3	=	8	16
3.	Availability or Preservation of Public Land and Water Resources	2	2	3	=	7	13
4.	General Recreation: hiking, picnicking, swimming, camping, dog trials, etc.	2	2	2	=	6	12
5.	Boating/Skiing Opportunity	2	1	1	=	4	9
6.	Fisheries/Fishing Opportunity	1	1	1	=	3	6
	Wildlife Habitat/Game Management Areas	1	1	1	=	3	6
7.	Archaeological Awareness (do and don'ts)/Cultural Interpretation	1	1	0	=	2	5
	Quality Commercial Recreation/Tourism Development	1	1	0	=	2	5
8.	Economic Enhancement/ Development (jobs)	0	1	1	=	2	3
	Environmental Awareness/ Educational Opportunities	1	0	0	=	1	3
	Flood Control	1	0	0	=	1	3
	Preservation of Wetlands	1	0	0	=	1	3
9.	Hunting Opportunity	0	1	0	=	1	2
	Low-Cost Power Production	0	1	0	=	1	2
10.	All other categories with a weighted value of 1						

OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Workshop Results

Table 3-A

Table 3-B

Table 3-A

PUBLIC WORKSHOP RESULTS
OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL WORKSHOP

	CATEGORY	RESPONSES (from 7 small groups) Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	PRIORITY VALUE
1.	Scenic Quality/Shoreline Aesthetics/Serenity/ Quality of Life	6	8	6	40
2.	Fisheries/Fishing Opportunity	8	2	1	29
3.	Hunting Opportunity	2	3	1	13
4.	Boating/Skiing Opportunity	2	4	0	14
5.	General Recreation: hiking, picnicking, swimming, camping dog trials, etc.	9	6	5	44
6.	Wildlife Observation/Habitat Preservation/Refuge Area	10	13	3	59
7.	Preservation of Wetlands	0	1	0	2
8.	Wildlife Habitat/Game Management Areas	0	2	0	4
9.	Availability or Preservation of Public Land and Water Resources	0	1	2	4
10.	Flood Control	4	1	4	18
11.	Quality Water Supply (industrial, municipal)	6	1	3	23
12.	Clean Water/Debris Cleanup	5	2	3	22
13.	Economic Enhancement/ Development (jobs)	3	2	5	18
14.	Limiting Additional Industrial Growth (clustered, zoned away from residential, enforce environmental controls)	0	2	0	4
15.	Public Park Development	0	1	2	4
16.	Quality Commercial Recreation/ Tourism Development	2	1	0	8
17.	Lake Management (stable recreational water levels)	0	0	0	0
18.	Availability of Access to Public Lands (roads & trails)	0	3	1	7
19.	Accessibility to the Lake and Major Creeks	1	0	2	5
20.	Agricultural Opportunities	0	0	2	2
21.	Environmental Awareness/ Educational Opportunities	2	0	2	8
22.	Forest Management Activities (hardwoods)	0	1	0	2
23.	Availability of Barge Commerce/ Navigation Facilities	1	0	1	4
24.	Low-Cost Power Production	2	2	0	10

Table 3-A (continued)

PUBLIC WORKSHOP RESULTS
OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL WORKSHOP

CATEGORY	RESPONSES (from 7 small groups)			PRIORITY VALUE
	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	
25. Archaeological Awareness (do's and don'ts)/ Cultural Interpretation	0	3	0	6
26. Public Participation Into Planning or Zoning Process	0	0	0	0
27. Residential Development Opportunities	0	1	1	3
28. Noncommercial Public Campgrounds/Camping Opportunities	0	0	1	1
29. Designated ORV Areas	0	0	0	0
30. Soil Erosion Control	0	0	0	0
31. TVA Maps and Informational Brochures	0	0	0	0
32. Good Air Quality	0	0	0	0
33. Enhanced Value of Private Lakefront Property	0	1	1	3
34. Security and Enforcement on TVA Public Lands	0	0	0	0
35. Lake Free of Aquatic Plants	0	0	0	0
36. Reservoir Not Being Overcrowded	0	0	0	0
37. Ease of Dealing With TVA	0	0	1	1

Table 3-B

OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMARY
TOP TEN RESPONSES
(83 Participants)

	CATEGORY ITEM	TOTAL SMALL GROUP RESPONSES Pr.1	Pr.2	Pr.3	=	Total	TOTAL WEIGHTED PRIORITY VALUE
1.	Wildlife Observation/Habitat Preservation/Refuge Areas	10	13	3	=	26	59
2.	General Recreation: hiking, picnicking, swimming, camping, dog trials, etc.	9	6	5	=	20	44
3.	Scenic Quality/Shoreline Aesthetics/Serenity/ Quality of Life	6	8	6	=	20	40
4.	Fisheries/Fishing Opportunity	8	2	1	=	11	29
5.	Quality Water Supply (industrial, municipal)	6	1	3	=	10	23
6.	Clean Water/Debris Cleanup	5	2	3	=	10	22
7.	Flood Control	4	1	4	=	9	18
	Economic Enhancement/ Development (jobs)	3	2	5	=	10	18
8.	Boating/Skiing Opportunity	2	4	0	=	6	14
9.	Hunting Opportunity	2	3	1	=	6	13
10.	Low-Cost Power Production	2	2	0	=	4	10

ALL WORKSHOPS COMBINED

Table 4

ALL WORKSHOPS COMBINED

CATEGORY	PRIORITY VALUE
1. Scenic Quality/Shoreline Aesthetics/Serenity/ Quality of Life	144
2. General Recreation: hiking, picnicking, swimming, camping dog trials, etc.	126
3. Wildlife Observation/Habitat Preservation/Refuge Area	91
4. Fisheries/Fishing Opportunity	66
5. Clean Water/Debris Cleanup	58
6. Boating/Skiing Opportunity	37
7. Economic Enhancement/ Development (jobs)	30
8. Flood Control	29
9. Quality Water Supply (industrial, municipal)	29
10. Availability or Preservation of Public Land and Water Resources	28
11. Hunting Opportunity	24
12. Limiting Additional Industrial Growth (clustered, zoned away from residential, enforce environmental controls)	23
13. Public Park Development	20
14. Wildlife Habitat/Game Management Areas	19
15. Availability of Access to Public Lands (roads & trails)	18
16. Environmental Awareness/ Educational Opportunities	18
17. Noncommercial Public Campgrounds/Camping Opportunities	18
18. Archaeological Awareness (do's and don'ts)/ Cultural Interpretation	17
19. Low-Cost Power Production	15
20. Quality Commercial Recreation/ Tourism Development	13
21. Lake Management (stable recreational water levels)	9
22. Residential Development Opportunities	9
23. Preservation of Wetlands	8
24. Public Participation Into Planning or Zoning Process	8

Table 4 (Continued)

ALL WORKSHOPS COMBINED

CATEGORY	PRIORITY VALUE
25. Accessibility to the Lake and Major Creeks	7
26. Availability of Barge Commerce/ Navigation Facilities	7
27. Agricultural Opportunities	6
28. Enhanced Value of Private Lakefront Property	4
29. Security and Enforcement on TVA Public Lands	4
30. Designated ORV Areas	3
31. Good Air Quality	3
32. Reservoir Not Being Overcrowded	3
33. TVA Maps and Informational Brochures	3
34. Forest Management Activities (hardwoods)	2
35. Ease of Dealing With TVA	1
36. Lake Free of Aquatic Plants	1
37. Soil Erosion Control	1

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Question No. 2

QUESTION NO. 2

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TVA LAND ON WHEELER RESERVOIR WOULD INCREASE ITS VALUE TO YOU?

Introduction

QUESTION NO. 2 gave the public a chance to suggest courses of action for TVA to improve the management and use of its land. The following statements summarize the responses to the question. If desired, each participant may check their recorded response, located in Section 1, to see if the summarized statements are accurate.

The summarized responses were grouped into 15 categories so that the planning team could easily reference the comments in light of priority and for comparison to the public values as discussed in QUESTION NO. 1.

Priority one responses (p1) were written out and duplicate statements identified by a number shown in parentheses and placed at the end of each statement. Most of the small groups had time to prioritize two or three additional rounds of responses (p2 and p3) for QUESTION NO. 2. These responses have been number tallied under the same 15 categories as shown for priority one (p1). Using the same method as in QUESTION NO. 1, each priority was assigned a weight factor (p1 x 3, p2 x 2, p3 x 1). All three priorities were added together providing a total "weighted priority value" for the 15 categories. The results can be seen in Table 5.

1. AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC LANDS: ACCESS TO RESERVOIR, PURCHASE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC LANDS

   - Improve and maintain boat ramps, many are undercut and washed out, especially those located on the Elk River near the confluence of the Tennessee River. (4)

   - Provide for greater opportunity to gain access to public land and the lake. (3)

   - Continue current policy to retain TVA land for future public use. Purchase additional land if possible. (3)

   - Construct another access bridge near Elk River.

   - Need more boat ramps on reservoir. (12) Would suggest the following locations: Mallard-Fox Industrial Park, Cotaco Creek at Highway 40, and another east of Decatur, Spring Creek, Swope Pond.

   - Lucy's Branch boat ramp is the most pathetic ramp of any found on all TVA lakes.

   - Need lighting at TVA's Round Island Creek (Cow Ford) boat ramp--also protection from the wind.

   - Improve and maintain lake access roads.

2. LAND STEWARDSHIP: RESOURCE PROTECTION, PUBLIC SAFETY, LITTER ABUSE, FACILITY MAINTENANCE, LAKE LEVELS, PRIVATE SHORELINE IMPROVEMENTS, ESTABLISHING CLEAR BOUNDARIES, ETC.

   - Provide a stronger litter control program and enforce current litter fines, especially at designated public access areas. (5)

   - Provide for more law enforcement or supervision around the lake to control speeding, drug trafficing, and fishing creel limits, etc. (2)

   - Modify TVA's policy which would allow for a maximum two-foot winter drawdown.

   - Would suggest keeping the water level at 544' until September 15.

   - Keep lake levels up year-round. (2)

   - TVA exercise control over the location of land fills that may pollute the lake.

   - Simplify the approval process to allow dredging improvements adjacent to private property.

   - Clearly identify all TVA public lands around the reservoir with signs. (2)

- Allow more flexibility for adjoining landowners to clear trees and vegetation on the narrow strip between the lake and private property. (2)

- Increase TVA's shoreline inspections to identify encroachments or structures needing repair, replacement, or removal, and add personnel for enforcement if necessary. (3)

3. TOURISM: COMMERCIAL RECREATION, PARK DEVELOPMENT

- Encourage the development of more public parks, especially those which can provide more camping opportunities. (7)

- Restore Lucy's Branch park (Limestone County) by improving facilities, i.e., roads, campground, picnicking, boat ramp, swimming, bathrooms, play fields, etc. (6)

- Limit private marina operators from constructing dock facilities to a point where it begins to interfere with general public access and recreational use. (3) (Specifically Lucy's Branch Resort)

- Develop more affordable camping areas for low income citizens. (3)

- Allocate TVA property near mouth of Second Creek for commercial marina development.

- Continue to provide opportunities for staging special events using TVA lands.

- Develop public parks and charge membership fees.

- Encourage commercial launching development with attendants for security.

- TVA should allocate some lands (sale or lease) to private enterprise for recreational development or improvements. (2)

- Develop more nice public picnic areas. (3)

4. WATER QUALITY: CLEAR WATER SUPPLY, SHORELINE AND FLOATING DEBRIS, POLLUTION, AQUATIC PLANTS

- Establish and enforce stronger pollution guidelines and encourage an increase in monitoring of water quality. (5) (especially along the southern industrial shoreline of Wheeler)

- Eliminate potential navigation hazards by removing logs and floating debris, especially on the Elk River. (6)

- Provide more information relating to water pollution making the public aware of diminishing water quality in Wheeler Reservoir.

- Improve and enforce sanitation regulations for marine sewage treatment and disposal.

- Initiate a voluntary group shoreline cleanup effort using local clubs and interested groups to pick up litter similar to the Alabama Department of Transportation (ADOT) highway "Adopt-A-Mile" program. (4)

- TVA needs to place more pressure on those agencies who are responsible for establishing stiffer fines and enforcing pollution regulations. (5)

- TVA should manage the aquatic plants in the lake, and not try to eliminate the plant, especially adjacent to wildlife management and refuge areas.

5. CUSTOMER SERVICE: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING PUBLIC, INTERACTION WITH TVA AND INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

- Provide more opportunity for community involvement when establishing best management practices (BMP) for wildlife habitat and off-road vehicle (ORV) use on TVA public lands. (3)

- TVA continue to be involved with all matters impacting Wheeler Reservoir.

- Publish the water levels (low and high) for residential information and public awareness. (2)

- TVA needs to be more responsive to the public. They only answer questions <u>if</u> or <u>when</u> they want to. (3)

- Improve access to TVA Board for individuals of the general public. Currently, one must be represented by an industrial, political, or financial interest before gaining an audience with the Board.

- Would like to be able to speak with the same TVA land management staff person at least twice in succession. "Where does the buck stop!"

- Would like to see better intergovernmental coordination among U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, TVA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alabama State Game and Fish, counties, cities, etc.

- TVA needs more local participation for recreation planning on Wheeler.

6. PUBLIC LAND DISPOSAL: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

- TVA should consider ways to sell or lease small tracts for individuals to develop private cottages or campsites. Example: Weiss Lake—a private power company reservoir offers long-term licenses for private use.

- TVA should allocate more land for residential development. (3)

- TVA should prudently evaluate the use for, and to whom, they sell land for industrial purposes to protect the environment from irresponsible manufacturers. (2)

- TVA should sell or lease land below the 560' contour to adjacent private landowners. (3)

- TVA should designate sites for industrial development on the south shore, east of Wheeler Dam, and upstream to Champion Paper Company.

- Allow the adjacent private landowner, who holds no deeded landrights, the opportunity to purchase rights, or be given permission by TVA to construct private shoreline improvements on public lands fronting the private property. (6) Case in point, Freeman Acres Subdivision.

7. GENERAL RECREATION: HIKING, PICNICKING, SWIMMING, FISHING, CAMPING, DOG FIELD TRIALS, ORV USE, ETC.

- Construct more hiking trials on public lands.

- Allow horseback riding on Wheeler Refuge lands near Bluff City Community.

- Evaluate the potential for designated recreational use on islands.

- Suggest TVA develop a recreation area on the east bank of Round Island Creek (at Hatchett Road) for camping and swimming.

- TVA needs to clean up the old Lawrence County Park site (Lock A) because it is full of trash and weeds.

- Need to expand the parking area for boat trailers at the Bluff City boat access/ramp site.

- TVA should continue to publicize its low-cost recreation opportunities.

- Set aside a large area and dedicate it to ORV use. Establish a trail system for two- and four-wheelers.

8. CONSERVATION: AGRICULTURE, FOREST MANAGEMENT, SOIL EROSION, SILTATION

- Stop the tree farming program, and encourage people to replant hardwood trees.

- TVA needs to address shoreline erosion and siltation problems on Wheeler Lake and the Elk River. (4)

- TVA should do a better job of protecting the prime farmland along the river.

- Preserve our timber resources from clearcutting practices.

- TVA should stop leasing land for grazing or restrict animal access from lake or stream as an effort to eliminate nonpoint sources of water pollution and erosion problems.

- Preserve old growth timber found on public land.

9. EDUCATIONAL/INTERPRETATION OPPORTUNITIES: ENVIRONMENTAL, HISTORY, AND ARCHAEOLOGY

- Develop Highway 31 South abandoned roadside park into an environmental awareness research center/biology field station (see written proposal). (2)

- Continue to provide opportunities for Boy Scout groups and others to use public lands for educational benefits.

- Devise educational programs to improve appreciation of the natural environment.

- Continue to identify and develop small natural areas with trails to interpret wildflowers, wildlife habitat, etc. (2)

- Would like to see surface collection of archaeological artifacts allowed on public lands.

- TVA needs to educate the public and inform them that hunting wildlife under controlled conditions is not harmful.

- TVA should take responsible measures to protect and mitigate the damaged and threatened cultural resources. (2)

10. LIMIT OR ELIMINATE: DEVELOPMENT ALONG WHEELER SHORELINE, INDUSTRIAL, NAVIGATION, COMMERCIAL, OR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ALONG SHORELINE

- Keep industrial development away from residential areas, i.e., Dell Vista Shores.

- Develop a long-range plan which would limit commercial and industrial development.

- No more commercial development, such as Lucy's Branch Resort.

- No additional industrial development on TVA public land. (3)

11. WILDLIFE: MANAGEMENT AREAS AND HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

- Use the "old fish hatchery" site on the Elk River for a wildlife management area.

- Place more emphasis on wildlife habitat enhancement and provide food for wintering waterfowl.

- Would like to see more wildlife management areas developed for increased opportunities to hunt game. (2)

  - Make Cotaco Creek, Flint Creek, and Flint River wildlife management and recreational areas.

  - TVA public lands adjacent to Paint Rock and Flint River should be used for waterfowl management and hunting.

  - There is a need for more game wardens to provide additional protection for wildlife and the safety of recreation users.

  - Get the state to improve and expand fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities at Mallard-Fox and Swan Creek.

12. HABITAT PRESERVATION: WILDLIFE REFUGES, WILDLIFE OBSERVATION, ENDANGERED SPECIES AND WETLANDS

  - Dedicate energy and funding for wildlife repopulation and protection.

  - Consider designating the area near State Highway Route 72 bridge which crosses the Elk River as a habitat protection area for endangered eagles.

  - Protect more shallow water areas for waterfowl feeding and nesting.

  - Consider setting aside more land for wildlife refuge programs. (3)

13. QUALITY OF LIFE: SCENIC QUALITY, SHORELINE AESTHETICS, SERENITY

  - Keep as much TVA public land as possible in its natural state to enhance the quality of life around the reservoir area. (3)

  - Keep industry away from areas that have scenic qualities and are not currently industrialized.

  - Protect undisturbed areas of shoreline by increasing visual protection standards--this would include timber harvesting. (2)

14. FLOOD CONTROL AND POWER PRODUCTION

  - TVA should provide closer scrutiny for designations of floodplains and flood zones.

  - TVA should improve its coordination between reservoirs when potential flooding is imminent.

  - Establish high-water contours with clear markers on rivers, creeks, and the lake.

15. RIVER COMMERCE: NAVIGATION DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS

- Eliminate the barging of waste (garbage) anywhere on the river.
- Continue to keep buoyed or marked channels clear of debris.

Table 5

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TVA LAND ON WHEELER RESERVOIR WOULD INCREASE IT"S VALUE TO YOU?

	P1(x3)	P2(x2)	P3(x1)	Total Weighted Value
1. Availability of Public Lands: Access to Reservoir, Purchase Additional Public Land	75	28	30	133
2. Land Stewardship: Resource Protection, Public Safety, Litter Abuse, Facility Maintenance, Lake Levels, Private Shoreline Improvements, etc.	60	40	20	120
3. Tourism: Commercial Recreation, Park Development	84*	14	2	100
4. Water Quality: Clean Water Supply, Shoreline and Floating Debris, Pollution, Aquatic Plants	69	26	5	100
5. Customer Service: Public Involvement in Planning, Public Interaction with TVA, and Interagency Cooperation	39	28	8	75
6. Public Land Disposal: Industrial Development, Residential Development	48	6	4	58
7. General Recreation: Hiking, Picnicking, Swimming, Fishing, Camping, Dog Field Trials, ORV Use, etc.	24	26	5	55
8. Conservation: Agriculture, Forest Management, Soil Erosion, Siltation	27	14	9	50

*The majority of first priority comments were supporting two suggestions for improvement of land management and/or land use on Wheeler Reservoir.

1. Encourage more picnic and campground facilities which are safe, convenient and affordable for the general public.

2. Restore Lucy's Branch (Limestone County Park) to a multifacility public recreation park development.

Table 5 (Continued)

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TVA LAND ON WHEELER RESERVOIR WOULD INCREASE IT"S VALUE TO YOU? (Continued)

		P1(x3)	P2(x2)	P3(x1)	Total Weighted Value
9.	Educational/Interpretation Opportunities: Environmental, History, and Archaeology	30	12	2	44
10.	Limit or Eliminate: Development Along Wheeler Shoreline, Industrial, Navigation, Commercial, or Residential Development Along Shoreline	18	12	8	38
11.	Wildlife: Management Areas and Hunting Opportunities	24	8	2	34
12.	Habitat Preservation: Wildlife Refuges, Wildlife Observation, Endangered Species and Wetlands	18	8	3	29
13.	Quality of Life: Scenic Quality/ Shoreline Aesthetics, Serenity	18	2	0	20
14.	Flood Control and Power Production	9	4	0	13
15.	River Commerce: Navigation Development and Operations	6	0	0	6

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Question No. 3

QUESTION NO. 3

WHAT SHOULD THE SHORELINE OF WHEELER RESERVOIR LOOK LIKE IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

Introduction

QUESTION NO. 3 was designed to allow participants an opportunity to provide word pictures of what the shoreline of Wheeler Reservoir would look like in ten years, taking into consideration the reasons they value the reservoir now, and any changes and improvements they would like to see implemented in the future.

It was obvious to the Wheeler planning core team that many participants enjoyed the reservoir and availability of adjacent public lands for a wide variety of uses. However, there was a noticeable change not exhibited in previous reservoir public workshop comments. Comments registered during the three Wheeler public workshops presented a change in attitude or feeling of pride in wanting to take a "proactive" part in providing a quality environment in which to live, work, and recreate. This was reflected in the way many comments were stated. For example, many responses were less "me" or "I" directed. Instead, greater reference was made in the third person, "we" or "our"... natural resources or public lands. Emphasis on specific words or phrases also supported the trend toward "holistic" thinking. It is interesting to review some of the words and phrases presented by the public at the workshops.

LIST OF TERMS AND QUALIFIERS

- Better communication
- Awareness
- Education/interpretation
- Quality
- Balance (man-made features vs. natural resources)
- Conservation/wise use (plants and animals)
- Preservation (wetlands, historic, archaeological resources, etc.)
- Clean water and air
- Planting more trees (hardwoods and pine)
- Protection of soil (erosion, siltation, prime farmland)
- Pollution from point and nonpoint sources (domestic, agricultural, industrial, marine)
- Enforcement of existing regulations instead of creating new ones
- Visual quality (litter, garbage, floating debris vs. scenic landscapes)
- Encroachment (man's impacts along the shoreline)
- Partnerships (public, government, organizations, private, etc.)
- Responsibility (public, government, organizations, private, etc.)

Conceptually speaking, participants from all three workshops provided responses which primarily fell within six general categories.

1. Availability of industrial/navigation sites and residential development opportunities
2. Tourism enhancement through commercial recreation opportunities and public recreation development
3. Preservation of the natural, cultural, and environmental resources
4. Protection and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat for the enjoyment and appreciation of the sportsman and observer
5. Overall improvement of reservoir management
6. Customer service and intra-agency cooperation

1. AVAILABILITY OF INDUSTRIAL/NAVIGATION SITES AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Abstract: Even with participant responses generally in agreement on most land use issues, there were two topics where participants exhibited some conflict with each other. The conflicting issues were related to: (1) disposing of public land for industrial development vs. eliminating or limiting industrial development along the reservoir shoreline and (2) increasing residential development rights on public lands vs. purchasing more public land, and not allowing for any more sale of land for residential development.

The "weighted priority values" for QUESTION NO. 2 addressing improvements or changes in land management showed the division between the two positions as extremely close. Some workshop participants who were in opposition to adding more development, especially along the south shore, did realize the need for planned residential growth and industrial job opportunities. Responses were all but unanimous that any type of development or alteration to the land for development on Wheeler should comply with strict environmental regulations and enforcement to control erosion, siltation, and air and water pollution. Additional comments are summarized as follows:

- Limit industrial development, not to exceed ten percent of the shoreline.
- If more industrial development is necessary it should be clustered near existing industrial sites preferably on private land behind the TVA public land. This would help to preserve the integrity of the natural shoreline.
- It was suggested that these industrial clusters would likely be along the southern shoreline near the Champion Paper Mill and near Decatur in the Mallard-Fox Creek Industrial Park.

- With limited public land available for industrial site development and supporting the idea of preserving the natural shoreline, participants suggested locating narrow industrial corridors at strategic points along the reservoir. Normally these narrow corridors would provide rail, road, pipe, or utility ingress and egress from backlying industrial areas to terminal sites on the lake. Sites suggested by participants were as follows: (1) near Spring Creek and Mallard Creek in Lawrence County, (2) near the confluence of the Elk and Tennessee Rivers to support Rogersville/Lauderdale County, (3) near Round Island Creek in Limestone County, (4) in the Mallard-Fox Creek Industrial Park, Morgan County, (5) near Triana in Madison County, and (6) near the mouth of Flint River in Madison County.

- No chip mills located on Wheeler Reservoir.

- A decrease of the number of nuclear plants along the entire Tennessee River. Reinvest funding toward alternate means of power generation, storage technology, and encourage conservation of energy through high-efficiency heating, cooling, and lighting systems.

- Some increased residential development on both the north and south shore near the confluence of the Elk and Tennessee Rivers.

- More flexibility or relaxing regulations which prevent existing residential property owners from using the public land between private land and the water, especially along the Elk River and in Freeman Acres Subdivision (Tennessee River mile 278L).

- It was suggested that both TVA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sell portions of the southern shoreline, above flood elevation, extending from the Decatur City limits, upstream to the I-65 bridge, and south along Flint Creek for the purpose of residential and community expansion.

- No more selling public land for residential convenience or private gain.

2. TOURISM ENHANCEMENT THROUGH COMMERCIAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND PUBLIC RECREATION DEVELOPMENT.

Abstract: There are six major commercial marina operations on Wheeler Reservoir: Joe Wheeler Resort Park, Lucy's Branch Resort, Jay's Landing, Brick Yard Marina, Decatur Boat Harbor, and Ditto Landing. Only two of the six have resort amenities, i.e., lodging, restaurant, campground, swimming, and other activities associated with full marine services. Some of the marinas are currently at capacity, while others appear to have mooring slips or dry boat storage available. Those showing more immediate need for marina expansion are Ditto Landing and Decatur Boat Harbor, both located adjacent to large population centers. However, little public comment was noted regarding the need for additional large commercial marinas on Wheeler.

Some participant responses were supportive of improving the tourism industry in the reservoir area and offered specific suggestions, such as improving fisheries in the lake to encourage additional sport fishing tournaments and the economic spin-offs associated with such activities. Others viewed tourism in broad terms, focusing on Wheeler Lake as the "hub" and suggested promoting tourism by improving community image like visual or aesthetic conditions, i.e., attractive waterfront, cleaner shoreline, more natural vegetation along the shore, etc. A strong emphasis was recorded from participants for further development of recreational opportunities, including local parks, campgrounds, and additional lake access. Specific comments related to tourism promotion and recreational development are summarized as follows:

- Many of the participants envisioned additional purchase of public lands for greater accessibility to the lake.

- An overwhelming number of citizens attending the workshops were advocates of improving the quality of existing lake and stream access areas and providing additional access at strategic locations reservoir-wide.

    A. Specific areas suggested for new boat ramps and parking: Spring Creek embayment, Swope Pond, Mallard-Fox Industrial Park, Susie Hole at the Bayou, Cave Springs at Leeman Slough, Cotaco Creek at Highway 40, Johnson's Landing near Dry Creek, and on the Flint River.

    B. Specific areas suggested for improvement or upgrading:
    - Twin Rivers - mouth of the Elk, ramp undercut, need parking
    - Lucy's Branch - need parking, ramp breaking up, conflict with adjacent commercial operation, too congested from boat traffic.
    - Round Island (Cow Ford) - security light, wind protection problem.

- Too often informal use areas become abused and are poorly patrolled and maintained. One such site is south of Snake Road just upstream from Limestone County Park. It is suggested that this and other such remote areas be closed.

- Citizens also suggested that TVA control the use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) on public land and provide a designated area where such use could be supervised and controlled, possibly by using the "old fish hatchery site" on the upper Elk River.

- Deteriorating water quality on recreational water-oriented activities should improve over the next ten years, especially along the southern shoreline near Decatur and within the larger marina basins.

- To promote tourism in the area, TVA should work with local lake user associations, chambers, regional tourism associations, and other interested groups. Specifically, develop a new marina in Morgan County adjacent to Point Mallard Park.

- TVA should take a proactive role in developing a diversity of public recreation facilities around the reservoir: more camping, picnicking, swimming, and lake access.

- TVA should also work closely with interested city and county governments to provide land and technical assistance for the development of parks and campgrounds. Specific areas currently suggested are:

    1. Limestone County - Lucy's Branch park
    2. Lawrence County - Gold Field Branch and Spring Creek areas
    3. Morgan County - Lacey's Spring Community southwest of U.S. Highway 231 bridge

3. PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES.

Abstract: As a whole, Wheeler Reservoir should continue to serve a wide variety of public needs. However, those needs should not jeopardize but enhance the aesthetic quality of the lake and adjacent shoreline. Workshop participants provided the following suggestions as to how Wheeler should look ten years from now.

- Provide cultural awareness by developing more museums to educate the public and interpret the history and archaeological resources of the area. Regulations protecting such resources should be enforced!

- Increase environmental awareness through the development of a biological research and interpretive center, one easily accessible to the public; specifically, a center located along Highway 31 between Athens and Decatur, Alabama, operated and maintained by Athens State College.

- Community involvement along with TVA's assistance should remove much of the floating debris and shoreline litter on Wheeler Reservoir.

- TVA should provide a greater presence at formal and informal public access areas to discourage abuse of public property, i.e., dumping, littering, polluting, cutting shoreline vegetation, etc.

- More Federal funding should be provided for TVA to maintain shoreline around the reservoir by planting more hardwood trees along open areas formally licensed for agricultural crop or sod production.

- TVA should be more responsive to water quality improvement instead of passing the buck to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. All government agencies involved (SCS, ASCS, FWS, TVA, ADEM, USACE, etc.) should work together to monitor and enforce point and nonpoint sources of pollution (residential, agricultural, industrial, commercial, and marine).

- Forest management practices should limit the amount of clearcutting along the shoreline. This would enhance visual quality and prevent future soil erosion and siltation problems. Clearcutting along major tributaries such as Flint Creek, Cotaco Creek, and Flint River should be limited because it could increase the potential of flooding.

- More flexibility should be allowed within residential areas for clearing vegetation on public lands along the shoreline. However, in other reservoir locations adjacent to industrial, commercial, or agricultural use areas, the shoreline should be protected to enhance scenic qualities and eliminate soil disturbance leading to siltation of streams and lakes.

4. PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND APPRECIATION OF THE SPORTSMAN AND OBSERVER.

Abstract: Much of the wildlife management and habitat protection is currently taking place within the middle to upper reaches of the reservoir. The responsibility for protection of both habitat and wildlife is shared among a number of state and Federal agencies. From a funding standpoint this may be beneficial. However, from the public's point of view, it is difficult for the user to understand what rules or regulations apply and what managing agency is responsible for a specific tract of public land. As a whole, positive responses were recorded relating to the improvement of habitat and protection of wildlife. The vision for the next ten years includes the following:

- Continue preserving the natural vegetation along both the north and south shoreline for visual qualities and wildlife enhancement.
- Place more emphasis on wildlife habitat for wintering waterfowl.
- Create more wetlands or shallow water areas for waterfowl feeding and nesting.
- Develop more wildlife management areas for increased opportunities to hunt game, i.e., Mallard-Fox Creek, Cotaco Creek, Flint River, and Paint Rock River.
- Dedicate additional funding and energy for wildlife repopulation projects, i.e., use the "old fish hatchery site" for repopulation of waterfowl species.
- Decrease encroachment from adjacent industrial and residential development. Limit requests for utility or transportation corridors through existing refuge or wildlife management areas.
- Provide additional wildlife enforcement officers to ensure that regulations are being observed and for the protection of endangered species of plants and animals.

5. OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT.

Abstract: Even though the focus of the planning process deals with management of public lands around Wheeler Reservoir, it is difficult to divorce the water resource from the land. Most everyone would agree with the notion that activities taking place near the shoreline could have a direct impact on water resources. Reservoir management is multifaceted, including such activities as flood control, navigation, fisheries, vector control, aquatic biology, shoreline erosion control, power production, recreation, water supplies and discharges, etc. However, reservoir water quality still remains the primary concern of the public. Looking toward the future, additional participant views were as follows:

- Winter drawdown of reservoir levels should be reduced. Also, the reservoir should be filled earlier in the spring and held at higher levels in the fall.
- TVA should relax its shoreline policy for private docks in locations where TVA land fronts existing private homes. Specifically in areas along the Elk River and near Freeman Acres Subdivision.
- TVA should begin now to implement a management program to provide a balance in aquatic plant growth by eliminating the plant where it conflicts with navigation, residential, commercial, or public recreational uses. While allowing it to grow in sloughs and remote areas, especially fronting wildlife or refuge areas.
- Three should be greater enforcement of laws related to boating activity, i.e., control speed, no drinking and operating boats, dumping trash or sewage from boats, excessive noise pollution, etc.

6. CUSTOMER SERVICE AND INTRA-AGENCY COOPERATION.

Abstract: The public voiced a rather strong position focusing on better cooperation among state and Federal land managing agencies and building a customer service relationship between TVA and the general public. For previous reservoir plans, this concept received little attention by the public. Comments which support this vision are as follows:

- TVA should seek more clearly defined boundaries of public land using identification markers. It is difficult for the public user to know where one agency's authority ends and another begins, i.e., Wheeler Refuge vs. Redstone Arsenal or TVA vs. Wheeler Refuge or Wheeler State Park vs. TVA, etc.

- TVA needs to be more responsive to public requests. Citizens should be able to speak with the same TVA land management staff person at least twice in succession, eliminating government red tape and the runaround.

- There should be more local participation for recreation planning on Wheeler and more opportunities for the public to provide input related to drafting new "best management practices (BMP)" for the use of off-road vehicles or other uses on TVA public lands.

- TVA needs to have a stronger presence of staff personnel on the reservoir to address public concerns, problems, or questions related to management, use, or abuse of public lands.

- With numerous government agencies managing lands for a variety of uses on Wheeler, the public is uncertain as to what they can or cannot do on these lands. It is anticipated that agencies should work toward some consistency in policy and regulations to clarify for the user what is expected.

- To improve communication for public awareness, all governmental agencies should financially participate in staffing a unified telephone "hotline" for the purpose of distributing accurate information and to recover lost opportunities to interact with the public. The system could also provide an excellent opportunity to announce educational programming or provide a mechanism to seek citizen involvement for volunteer support implementing specific resource-related projects.

SECTION 3

Additional Public Comments and Written Correspondence

SECTION 3

Introduction

Prior to the three workshops, planning staff met with several targeted groups, organizations, and key individuals within the six-county reservoir area to describe the planning process and encourage public involvement. The meetings also provided an opportunity for information exchange, identifying issues, questions, concerns, and local needs related to TVA reservoir lands.

Input was requested from Chambers of Commerce; industrial and economic development groups; Council of Governments; environmental/conservation organizations; local officials (i.e., mayors, city managers); congressional staffs; county commissioners; and other Federal, state, and local managers and officials.

One such meeting involved representatives from state and Federal agencies who were responsible for managing and making decisions or recommendations on public and private lands around Wheeler Reservoir. Those represented were as follows: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alabama State Game and Fish, Alabama State Parks, law enforcement officials, Redstone Arsenal officials, Soil Conservation Service, and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

TVA presented two questions to the group.

Question No. 1: From a resource manager's viewpoint, what are the top three reservoir issues that should be addressed over the next ten years?

Question No. 2: From your agency's point of view, how would you like TVA to manage its lands differently?

These responses and recommendations along with others, have been incorporated into the development of the Wheeler Reservoir goals and objectives.

Prior to and following the three public workshops, comment letters were received and placed on file as part of the public record. TVA had asked the public to provide written comments via the citizen information package that was sent to over 2190 agencies, organizations, and individuals. TVA wanted to provide an opportunity for those unable to attend the workshops a chance to comment on any or all three questions addressed at the workshops.

The following are copies of letters submitted to TVA as additional public input into the Wheeler planning process.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 262, Guntersville, Alabama 35976
Phone (205) 837-7939

Dear Mr. Sherer

Here is some of the proposed ideas Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc. has on the fish hatchery property. TVWA would like to meet with the Land Management Division of TVA.

Enclosed is some information on TVWA.

Respectifully,
Jerry Davis
Jerry Davis
TVWA Director

Western Area
Field Operations
S&F OPS

10 OCT 28 '88

2 PCS pcs
4 JEH

To	Name	
1	Sherer	
	Ginn	
	Grinstead	
	Smalley	
	Weatherly	
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	Chambers	
	Bell	
	Fielding	
3	Smith	
5	Hall	
	Wright	
	Stewart	
6	Pkgs. 170 OS WHA-M	

"Geese In The Valley"

TVA/ONRED/LER-85/41

AMS 764 D 501 R3

TENNESSEE VALLEY WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION, INC.

PROPOSAL FOR ELK RIVER IN LIMESTONE COUNTY

- FOR TVA TO LEASE OR DONATE THE OLD FISH HATCHERY PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED NORTH OF HIGHWAY 99. TVWA WOULD LIKE A 99 YEAR LEASE OR AT LEAST A LONG TERM LEASE.

- TO SET THIS AREA ASIDE FOR A WATERFOWL REFUGE AND RESTOCKING AREA FOR DUCKS AND GEESE.

- TVWA WOULD USE THE EXISTING PONDS AS DEWATERING AREA TO PLANT FOOD FOR WATERFOWL AND OTHER WILDLIFE. THIS WOULD BE FLOODED DURING THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER AND DRAINED IN APRIL.

- FILE FOR AID ON THE ENGINEERING , REPAIR OF WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES, OBTAINING A WATER-PUMP AND PLANTING.

- TVWA WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, SIGNS, GATES AND PLANTING OF FOOD CROPS.

- TVWA WILL NOT ALLOW ANY OFF ROAD RIDING OF 4X4 AND 3 WHEELERS.

- TVWA WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A NATURE TRAIL ON THE BANKS OF THE ELK. THIS WOULD BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EXCEPT FROM NOVEMBER 1 TO JANUARY 31, BECAUSE OF THE MOLESTATION OF WATERFOWL, (CERTAIN TIMES WOULD MOST LIKELY BE OPEN). TVWA WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN AREA OPEN FOR PUBLIC VIEWING OF THE WATERFOWL. THIS WOULD BE LOOKED INTO.

- TVWA WOULD ASK THE BOY SCOUT TROOPS TO HELP KEEP THE NATURE TRAIL UP AND CLEAN.

- TVWA WOULD ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS AND SCOUTS TO USE THIS AREA.

- TVWA WOULD WANT A WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST TO OVER SEE THIS FACILITY.

This area right now is scarred from the use of off road vehicles. This is causing severe damage to what was at one time many ponds. This is also a problem area with the law enforcement division of Limestone County. This is where many people come to drink and smoke pot. The conservation officers also has problems with violator

This land could be developed into a over-wintering habitat for our migratory birds. Southern wetlands is vital to a healthy population of migratory birds. Our duck numbers are at a all time low. Limestone County population is expected to continue to grow at a very rapid rate and north Alabama wetland are disappearing very fast.

TVWA will promote youth involvement in the appreciation of nature.

Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 262, Guntersville, Alabama 35976

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File #
FEB 02 '89

PORE	
ROZELL-ETHERTON	
HARRIS	
McDONOUGH	
GILBERT	
MILLER	
SPENCER	
✓ CURTIS	
AMBROSE	
✓ BOARDMAN	
ALLCOOD	CALVERT
THRESS	NALL
SMITH	PACK
FIELDING	DANBY
SAIN	
FILES	

Mr. Robert Curtis, Manager
TVA Reservoir Land Planning
Norris, Tennessee

January 24, 1989

pending LU requests

Dear Mr. Curtis,

I am writing you to reinforce the interest Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc. (TVWA) has in the Fish Hatchery property in North Limestone County. This project and proposal TVWA has sent TVA, has generated much interest and support here in North Alabama. (Read inclosed article).

I received a letter from Mr. W. E. Smith in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, stating information and proposal from TVWA was sent to you. Since this time, the project has gained the support from several outdoor user groups.

TVWA is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Several large contractors have pledged work toward this project. This will be quite an attractive tax deduction for these people.

TVWA would like to see this area used for a wetland project. North Alabama is a rapidly developing area and much of the wetlands have been filled and developed. Very little wetland area has been created or replaced. As you know our southern overwintering habitat is vital to a healthy migratory bird population. Ducks and waterfowl habitat is on a downward trend, with over 400,000 acres of wetlands lost every year in the United States.

There are public service organizations that raises money to enhance the breeding area up north, but there is virtually no money spent on waterfowl habitat in north Alabama. In the North American Waterfowl Management Plan there is no money allocated to North Alabama waterfowl or habitat.

TVWA, with the cooperation of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), banded and release 1170 wild Mallards. From the interviews with the sportsmen that harvested some of the banded Mallards, this program has merits. We are still awaiting the band data from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Then we will put all the data into a research report. This Wild Mallard release program is one of the reasons TVWA would like to obtain the Fish Hatchery property.

TVWA would like to see a primitive Boys Scout and Girl Scout camp. site on this property.

TVWA would seek funds to develop a nature trail, for the public to use.

After a tour of the property with the Alabama Wetland Specialist, David Hayden with the ADCNR. We both agreed, that this area would make an idea waterfowl refuge, because it is too small for a hunting area. There is an ample amount of public hunting area located close to the Hatchery property. This area would enhance the hunting, by drawing a large number of waterfowl to this area, not counting the ducks that would be released.

As you can see by the article, these people do not honor or respect the signs that has been placed on this property. They have continued to damage the network of dikes that form the ponds.

I hope that TVA will contribute to the outdoor recreation and quality of life that the people in North Alabama treasure by letting this area be developed for wildlife.

TVWA is a public service organization that does not decriminate and was founded to enhance waterfowl and waterfowl habitat in North Alabama.

May I hear from you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Davis

Jerry Davis, Director
TVWA

cc U.S. Senator Howell Heflin
cc U.S. Congressman Mr. Ronnie Flippo

cc U.S. Congressman Mr. Tom Bevill
cc Mr. Runyan, Director of TVA
cc Director of Land and Forest Resources, TVA
cc Mr. Ralph Jordan, TVA
cc Alabama Governor Mr. Guy Hunt

Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 262 • Guntersville, Alabama 35976

Jerry Davis
Executive Director
205 837-7939

Larry Parker
Executive Treasurer
205 582-4212

Anne Case
Executive Secretary
205 837-6442

Febuary 12, 1989

PLEASE READ THIS NEWS ARTICLE!

These allocations against TVWA is totally out of context. Mr. Johnson spoke out in a public newspaper without having all the facts. TVWA has never said, TVA was in total support of this project, only that they (TVA) would consider our ideas.

TVWA has "seeked out" public support, because TVWA would like to see this project benefit all. TVWA realized that TVA would not give up this land without a tremendous amount of public support.

I will be glad to answer any questions that I can.

I think Mr. Johnson owes TVWA a apology, concerning his allocations that TVWA has "misled the public and is doing more harm than good."

Respectifully,

Jerry Davis

Jerry Davis, Director
TVWA

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # _____
FEB 16 '89

PORE	
ROZELL-ETHERTON	
HARRIS	
McDONOUGH	
GILBERT	
MILLER	
SPENCER	
CURTIS	
AMBROSE	
BOARDMAN	
ALLFOOD	CALVERT
THRESS	HALL
SMITH	PACK
FIELDING	DANBY
SAIN	
FILES	

HENS News

Serving Athens & Limestone County: C

Over refuge plan

TVA says public misled by TVWA

By CHERYL GREEN

A spokesman for the Tennessee Valley Authority's land management division said this weekend the federal agency is neither ready nor willing to hand over the lease to its now-defunct fish hatchery in western Limestone County.

Danny Johnson, a TVA land management specialist, said TVA is not ready to relinquish the hatchery's lease to any "private" organization, including a North Alabama waterfowl conservation group which is seeking to turn the 70-pond, 200-acre facility into a waterfowl refuge and nature lover's haven. He added TVA is leery of the project because of environmental "concerns" with the Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association's waterfowl restocking program.

But TVWA Director Jerry Davis said his organization doesn't want the lease for itself. In fact, he said, TVWA could care less who has official ownership of the lease. Instead, the group's main concern is revamping the hatchery into a waterfowl refuge.

"(TVA) doesn't have to give the lease to us," said Davis, adding TVWA is a "non-profit, public-service group — not a private organization — as determined by the Internal Revenue Service" recent tax-exempt classification of the group. "They can give the lease to Limestone County, the state, whoever they want. What we've got here is people willing to donate money and time to a project, but TVA is not willing to give up the lease and, consequently, North

(See TVA page 8A)

Protected wetland habitat destroyed

By CHERYL GREEN

CAPSHAW — For some 30-odd years, recalled Jerry Davis, hunters and wildlife enthusiasts enjoyed a thriving population of waterfowl and small animals inhabiting a 12-acre swamp off Burgreen Road.

Today, the wetland habitat is a sea of dried, black earth. Barren trees and dying weeds which once served to protect migratory waterfowl and other animals now look eerily misplaced. In the distance, refuse from a construction site has begun to take the place of water.

Occasionally, a migratory blue heron or wood duck, ignorant to the loss of its annual resting ground, circles the swamp in search of food or a suitable nesting place. It doesn't take long before the birds realize something's gone awry.

Totaling more than 400,000 acres a year, the drastic loss of wetland habitat has become a national

(See Wetland page 7A)

TVA

(Continued from page 1)

Alabama is losing money and waterfowl."

TVWA began seeking the lease last fall as part of its on-going effort to restock waterfowl populations and provide the public with properly maintained nature trails, camping facilities and hunting areas. Local contractor Billy Burgreen has agreed to donate 80 manhours and use of heavy equipment to revamp the ponds. The group headed a waterfowl restocking experiment last year which resulted in the banding and release of some 1,170 mallard ducklings and 438 Giant Canadian Geese across North Alabama rivers and lakes.

But, Johnson criticized the waterfowl organization with possibly causing more harm than good with its restocking experiment, saying the release has made waterfowl vulnerable to hunters; susceptible to and spreaders of disease; and dependent on others for food. He also criticized TVWA for "misleading" the public about the hatchery project.

"They've represented themselves as something that they're not," Johnson said. "They've led people to believe TVA is backing them...TVA is in no way affiliated with TVWA. They make it sound like they've got our whole-hearted support. That's just not true. I can't see us giving anything to TVWA."

Davis disagrees with Johnson's assessments.

"We've gone to every precaution to ensure that we won't infect the migratories," Davis said. "We worked with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on the release. We had a vet on site to make sure every bird was in good health and that the geese were mature. The mallards were raised in very sanitary conditions and they were all looked at by a biologist. Any bird showing any sign of impurities or disease was held back for observation."

Concerning the birds' vulnerability during hunting season, Davis said, "This was an experimental project, but I've had sportsmen tell me they couldn't tell the banded birds from the migratory birds. The birds have even held and decoyed migratory birds where there haven't been as many (migratories) in past years. We're still receiving banding data, but some of the banded ducks harvested this year have been found 15 to 20 miles from where they were released. That indicates to me they're moving around, looking for food. They're not dependent on one area or person for food."

But it's efforts like those, says Johnson, that has TVA wildlife and land management specialists worried and reluctant to relinquish the lease. Foremost on TVA's list of concerns, he said, is that the hatchery would not be open to the public — especially hunters — once the lease is turned over.

"The hatchery is still open for public use and remains so," Johnson said. "One of our concerns is (that by giving TVWA the lease) it would be taking away from public land."

Not so, Davis countered.

"Our proposal states we want to develop the hatchery primarily as a waterfowl refuge, mainly because it's too small of an area for public hunting," he said. "Yes, we'd regulate hunting as a management tool. We're a pro-hunting organization, but if we draw a lot of waterfowl into the area it will enhance the hunting on already-existing public hunting areas.

"Besides, who's going to get up at three or four in the morning and sit on a deer stand when they're going to be surrounded by ATVs? It's virtually impossible to hunt unless you do it at night and that's illegal."

Johnson said TVA has a bevy of options for use of the facility, including re-opening the hatchery.

"There's many potential uses that TVA people may want to start," Johnson said, "including wildlife, wildlife development, land management and agricultural uses. We could even go back into fisheries. With all the problems we've been experiencing with milfoil on the Wheeler Reservoir, it would be a good place to start experimenting."

But Davis believes the hatchery could not only be turned into a welcomed sanctuary for dwindling waterfowl populations and wetland habitat, but that the facility is also in dire need of repair and supervision, evident from the tire tracks, garbage, and gradual destruction of the man-made dikes. Riders of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are the facility's most frequent users and, Davis said, it's up to TVA to stop the practice.

"My understanding is that there's no state or county law against riding a three-wheeler on TVA land. Police officers can't arrest anyone unless TVA pushes it. TVA doesn't enforce riding out there." Signs are posted prohibiting the practice.

Johnson admits there's a problem patroling ATV riders who "abuse" — "not use" — the hatchery. However, he emphasized, giving the lease to TVWA would take away public land used by hunters.

"It's extremely hard to patrol and regulate a lot of the off-road use," he said. "(ATV riders) are destructing property. They have the right to use — not abuse — the facility...But one of our concerns is that by giving the lease to TVWA it'd be taking away from the public land."

W.E. Smith, manager of TVA's property managament division, said that before TVA will consider relinquishing the lease it must first begin undertaking its Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan accompanied with public meetings and "a full-blown public hearing" to give the public an opportunity to voice its sentiments about the hatchery.

He couldn't confirm when the meetings or hearing would be held because the land plan is still in the preparation stages.

Wetland

(Continued from page 1)

dilemma, equivilant to other environmental concerns such as the greenhouse effect, acid rain and ocean dumping. Wetland loss is a problem that's found its way to Limestone County.

A few weeks ago, due to heavy rains, county work crews were forced to drain the swamp because water overflowing onto the road was becoming a safety hazard to motorists.

Unfortunately, says U.S. Corp of Engineer Jim Robbins, the wetland area was not a natural formation. Instead, it was a result of beavers that built a dam at the base of a swamp near the road. But the fact remains, he added, that the swamp was a protected wetland habitat, an annual home to some 50 wood ducks, inumerable herons and other migratory waterfowl, and various small animals.

Diminishing wetland areas has not only worried conservationists, but has also caught the concern of national leaders. So much so that President George Bush has pledged to seek a "no net loss" environmental policy to protect any further wetland reduction. In Limestone County, very few wetlands are protected, according to conservation statistics.

So what's the reason for all the concern? Easy, says Davis, director of the Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association. Eighty percent of all wetland loss occurs in the South — a startling statistic considering the benefits wetlands provide.

"They provide shelter and food for wildlife, serve as buffers for storm protection, act as natural water storage areas during storms, and even help purify water by filtering pollutants," Davis said. "I've personally hunted that swamp since 1955. It served as overwintering grounds for migratory birds and as a rearing habitat for local wood ducks. Plus, there was a ton of fish in there."

Davis is convinced the county could have avoided draining the swamp by "shooting a line on the swamp and building a levy" to direct the water to another culvert.

Robbins said the county could have "possibly" found an alternative solution to draining the swamp, but because the water was causing a traffic hazard in times of heavy rain, the county had few options, if any.

"It was definitely a wetland, naturally conceived by beavers even though the area is far removed from the river," Robbins said. "In this case, it's just real unfortunate that it was causing a public safety hazard on that road. It had to be unplugged."

Under normal circumstances, when a landowner is discovered to have intentionally destroyed wetland habitat, Robbins said the Corp imposes a stiff $1,500 to $2,500-per-day fine. Plus, he added, the violator is asked to "mitigate" the loss. "That means if a person destroyed 10 or 20 acres, they have to create that many more acres somewhere else," a policy similar to Bush's "no net loss" proposal.

Robbins said wetlands are determined by three criteria, including "associated animal life (as in the case of the Burgreen Road swamp); acquatic vegetation; and the hydrology of the soil."

Davis realizes there's nothing now that can be done to solve the draining of the swamp, but he believes TVWA and other conservation groups could send a message to county and state governments that wetland losses won't be tolerated, especially in a court of law.

"Our organization is trying to put together a team of lawyers so that we can start suing people for the destruction of wetlands," Davis said. "The money that we would get in punitive damages would go back into the wetland habitat for North Alabama. I'd like to see us get a lawyer in every (North Alabama) county.

"Counties had better be very careful," he warned. "Lawsuits like these have occurred before in other parts of the country, and now that Bush is pushing (the preservation of wetlands) we've got the backing to do it."

Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 262 • Guntersville, Alabama 35976

Jerry Davis
Executive Director
205 837-7939

Larry Parker
Executive Treasurer
205 582-4212

Anne Case
Executive Secretary
205 837-6442

Mr. Robert Curtis, Manager
TVA Land Planning
Norris, TN 37828

February 18, 1989

Dear Mr. Curtis,

Itwas a pleasure talking to you Friday 2-17-1989. After our conversation, I want to update our views on the Fish Hatchery proposal. There has been a couple of changes in the proposal after talking to some of the outdoor user groups in the area. TVWA has tried to come up with ideas that would benefit as much of the public as possible. If nothing is developed on this property and it is set aside for wildlife our efforts will not have been in vain. As you know many people treasure this property.

Enclosed is a letter and some information on a wild Mallard release program in the state of Maryland. This letter states how TVWA stands on the fish hatchery proposal. Please put this in our file and we will look forward to discussing this at the Land Planning hearing.

Sincerely,

Jerry Davis

Jerry Davis, Director
TVWA

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 16
MAR 03 '89

PORE	
ROZELL-ETHERTON	
HARRIS	
McDONOUGH	
GILBERT	
MILLER	
SPENCER	
CURTIS	return
AMBROSE	
BOARDMAN	
ALLEGOOD	CALVERT
THRESS	HALL
SMITH	PACK
FIELDING	DARRY
SAIN	

Z. Jordan

Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 262 • Guntersville, Alabama 35976

Larry Parker
Executive Treasurer
205 582-4212

File # 7
APR 16 '90

TENNESSEE VALLEY WATERFOWL ASSN
BEEBE IN THE VALLEY
TVWA

ROZELL ETHERTON	
HARRIS	
McDONOU	
GILBERT	
MILLER	
SPENCER	
CURTIS	
FIELDING	CALVERT
McKIBBEN	CANBY
SMITH	SALL
THRESS	
SAM	
FILES	

return to gjw for RLP
Gunt. - 26a/Lu

April 10, 1990

Mr. William James
Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
P.O. Box 1070
Nashville, Tennessee 37202-1070

Dear Mr. James:

This letter is opposing Application 51,244, Public Notice 90-45.

The main topic of Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc. (TVWA) meeting of April 5, 1990 was concern of the upswing of shoreline development, both residential and industrial. How this development was turning our lakes into a subdivision. Many citizens of Alabama and other states comes to our lakes to get away from the hustle of everyday life and enjoy the anesthetic astmospere of a quite evening on the lake. Also, how these natural shorelines creates feeding and resting areas for our fish and wildlife. The retaining wall or seawalls eliminate much of the puddle ducks feeding area where oak trees over-hang, because many times the water depth in too great. The piers and boat houses create boating hazards, takes away from the natural appearance and eliminate many waterfowl from using the area. When these lots are developed how the land owners cuts trees on the public TVA land and completely destroys the natural habitat and food source. This also eliminates the possibility of public hunting close or adjacent to these developments. (Article enclosed on how fast North Alabama is losing wildlife habitat and public hunting land.)

The area of this application is rich in natural resources that is open to the public. With this development Mr. Black will reap much financial gain at the expense of the people of Alabama. This land and shoreline will be altered forever. This slough is used by many different fish and wildlife. The spoonbill catfish has been harvested in this area. Many wildfowl and shorebirds inhabit the slough that is to be altered. Many hunters and fishermen enjoy their recreation in this slough.

The excavation of 31,634 yards of river bottom will eliminate the tree stumps, the milfoil and much of the natural bottom for spawning of our river fish. The water depth will greatly reduce the feeding of our migratory and local puddle ducks.

This area is close to Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge and closer to Swan Creek and Mallard Creek Wildlife Management Areas. Many public access areas exist in this area. This area is getting very congested. The new Lucy Branch Resort, TVA's Cowford Public Park and boat lauching area, Brownsferry Nuclear Plant, Paradise Shores, Poplar Point Subdivision, Dogwood Flat Subdivision and many more area developed on Wheeler lake.

TVWA is committed to the members to protect wetlands and waterfowl habitat loss in Alabama and the Valley. Many conservationist govern TVWA, Inc. TVWA is not trying to be radical, we try to be rational. At the rate we are losing our habitat and natural senic areas in North Alabama, there will be none left for future generations. Why should many people lose their natural resources so a few developers will reap great benefits. This lake was developed with citizens tax dollars. Mitigation on the areas to be developed that is vital to a healthy economy and areas that provide vital public services can be tolerated. Multi-land use is what TVA preaches, development such as these are private land use.

Please lets get the conservation organizations of Alabama, Corps of Engineers, and TVA Land Management a meeting to discuss shoreline development on the reservoirs in the Valley.

Respectfully,

Gary Benefield

Gary Benefield, Executive Director
TVWA, Inc.

cc: TVA Director of Land Management

Outdoors

Quality of hunting will never be same in Tennessee Valley

By HAROLD HILL
For The Times

Since the beginning of time, man and nature have struggled and clashed. Early man took Mother Nature's resources for food, clothing and ultimate survival. Nature countered with balance of its resources with fires, floods, earthquakes, disease and sometimes seemingly total disaster.

Later, man regroups and in an effort to control soil erosin, introduces from far-away Asia, kudzu, a vine that relentlessly grows and grows and grows — literally covering the landscape. Man's best made plans have goned astray. Mother Nature has gone from the defensive now to the offensive. She (Nature) now attacks in force the fresh water lakes and rivers by introducing milfoil, hydrilla, latuses and other aquatic plants.

Man, never to be defeated, regardless of the final outcome, makes plans for increases in agricultural and industrial production. Enter pesticides, herbicides, DDT, Agent Orange and acid rain — the list goes on.

Nature and all of her creatures from the smallest fish to the largest land animals reel under this influx of lethal dosage. Man himself is even affected. Bluebirds, eagles, waterfowl, fish and aquatic plants and growth pay the price. Nature is faced with a situation that she cannot handle alone and balance.

It is at rare times like this, that man with all of his self afflicted destructives will send a chosen few to try and undo what many have done. The terrible thing about this gesture of good will is that in some cases it comes too late. Who will be the winner or will we all be the loser? No one seems to know. But if, in this matter, Nature was called upon to arbitrate, everyone would soon understand the price. For when Nature calls its creatures to account, it has but a single goal, balance. In securing that balance it often extracts unconditional surrender.

Habitat is disappearing at an alarming rate as are hunting areas and farm land formerly used for hunting. We already know from a study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the pendulum is swinging toward bird watching, feeding and photography, while hunting is declining. Numbers of duck and geese hunters are "hanging it up" yearly. Management areas are over crowded and with private clubs leasing that last good areas of farm and wetland it is tough to find really good hunting.

As a boy I hunted, fished and trapped Madison County and game was plentiful. Wild ducks and geese used Braham Spring and all down Huntsville Spring Branch into Redstone Arsenal. East of Byrd Spring hundreds of ducks and some geese fed. Then came what we refer to as progress. Where the ducks and geese fed is now shopping centers, a parkway and hundreds of houses. On Redstone Arsenal, where several thousand Canada geese wintered annually, now only very few are rarely seen.

I have lived and hunted and in my lifetime I have seen Madison, Morgan, and Limestone counties change so much that a former resident returning to the area cannot find his way around.

Where now sits the Jetport, factories and plants too numerous to name were once hundreds of acres of corn and wheat wintering thousands of ducks and geese. Where once were tupelo swamps and "blue holes", where the blacks and woodies "fogged in" are now sawed down, filled in, concreted, asphalted and drained areas.

Ducks Unlimited used a slogan, "they once darkened the sky". I have seen the phenomenon on the old Kaiser estate (now the Jetport) when the waterfowl did just that. With progress and massive "face lifting" all fish and game suffered. That habitat will never be reclaimed. It is lost forever.

Hunting in the Tennessee Valley will never be like it was in my time. This generation and following generations will not see what I and my hunting buddies saw. I really don't have to wonder about the quality of hunting in Madison County today, when my friends tell me they are heading for Arkansas or Kentucky for waterfowl.

It is true that the number of ducks and geese don't come to the Valley like they formerly did and there are several reasons for this. I wonder what would happen if we once again wintered 60,000 Canada geese and 120,000 ducks in our refuge. Where and how could they be managed once they left the refuge with our habitat lost?

Harold Hill operates Lake Rosemary Waterfowl Refuge in Madison.

" Didn't work!

LAWRENCE COUNTY, ALABAMA

BOARD MEMBERS
COY DWIGHT GRAY
FERMAN GRIMES
MOSE JONES, JR.
LARRY LOUALLEN
RANDY C. WALDREP

THE LAND WITH A FUTURE

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSION
MOULTON, ALABAMA 35650
TEL. 974-0663

ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN LANG

March 27, 1990

Mr. W. E. Smith
Manager, Property Management
Southern Land Resources District
OSA IW 170A
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is to express to you the desire of the Lawrence County Commission to develop recreation facilities along Spring Creek Road (County Road No. 400).

Our long term goal is to develop permanent recreation facilities in cooperation with T. V. A. at Spring Creek, the old Lawrence County Park (Lock A), and access at Goldfield Branch. We realize that the approval, design, and construction of these facilities may be a lengthy process. For this reason we are requesting that you grant permission to upgrade the existing access and parking areas just east of the bridge at Spring Creek.

If this meets with your approval, please contact our County Engineer, Mac Rushing at 974-2478 so that this work may be completed during this construction season.

Very truly yours,

Ferman Grimes

Ferman Grimes, Chairman

FGrimes/jl

cc: Mr. Mac Rushing
County Engineer
P.O. Box 275
Moulton, AL
35650

LAND MANAGEMENT SECTION
Date Rec'd: 3-29-90
1 WES
2 TEH
3 WRM
WII
4 DRJ
CJH
JSA
JRW
5 SBH (pf 4/23/90)
ESZ
Files

4/5/90
mc: Russell Harris

1109 Bessemer Road
Huntsville, Alabama 35611

January 21, 1991

W. E. Smith, Manager
Property Management
Southern Land Resources District
Tennessee Valley Authority
170 Office Service Warehouse Annex
Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35660

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is the request for a Deed of Title and Easement of Access to the Lucy Cemetery (No. 67) from the Tennessee Valley Authority to Little Elk Church.

Mr. Randy McCann from your office met with Willie Yarbrough, Joe Weaver, Jr., Ann Farrar and myself (Houston A. Yarbrough) at the Lucy Cemetery on February 15, 1990. We conducted a visual survey of the cemetery and placed orange tape and orange paint on trees to mark its location. We identified the TVA NE corner boundary marker and the eastern property line to the Snake road.

At this meeting Mr. McCann said that there was no method whereby the TVA could help with the cost of fencing or road building to the cemetery. He requested that we send a statement and map showing the requested road location and the cemetery boundary. He also suggested that we send a copy to the Limestone County Commission.

Enclosure 1 is a copy of the TVA map of the Lucy Cemetery NO. 67. The boundary of the cemetery as stated in this map is correct and sufficient to include all identifiable graves. Request the deed show boundaries as shown in this map. The map shows the origin of the Northwest corner or point of origin to be at a point 612 feet from the TVA monument (81) South 15 degrees 00 minutes East. Then South 85 degrees 00 minutes East for 140 feet, South 5 degrees 30 minutes West 240 feet, North 85 degrees 00 minutes West 140 feet, and North 5 degrees 30 minutes East 240 feet to the point of origin.

Enclosure 2 shows the outline of WR 351 property owned by the TVA and surrounding Lucy Cemetery No. 67. The right of way easement or access is shown by the dotted line. An exact survey has not been accomplished but the line and the following description

shows the approximation of the access needed. The desired access should be at least 30 feet wide and begin at the TVA monument 83. Therefore the point of origin of the center of the access would begin fifteen feet west of monument 83 then North 0 degrees 25 minutes West 800 feet, then North 135 degrees 00 minutes West 500 feet, then North 88 degrees 25 minutes West 885 feet to a point 15 feet south of the Northeast corner of Lucy Cemetery as shown on map at enclosure 1.

The intent of this request is stated in our September 1989 letter to you. We are continuing to search for assistance in funding the access road and cemetery clearing, and building a fence around the cemetery.

Please contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Houston A. Yarbrough

CF:

Little Elk Missionary Baptist Church
Limestone County Commission
Mr. Joe Weaver, Jr.
Ms. Ann Farrar
Mr. Willie Yarbrough
Mr. Wilbur Warren

28 September 1989

1109 Bessemer Road
Huntsville, AL 35816

Mr. W. E. Smith
Manager of Property Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
OSA1W 1708
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Reference: Lucy Cemetery, # 67, TVA Sheet # ~~167~~ 169

Dear Mr. Smith:

On behalf of my family, the decedents of Joe and Martha Yarbrough of Limestone County, request your help in developing access and physical security for the above referenced cemetery. We, along with the citizens of Little Elk Community, want a deed to the cemetery, an access road from Limestone County Highway 24 to the cemetery and a fence built around the cemetery. Clear

The cemetery is located as shown on the enclosed map. If you require an exact survey let me know.

We are organizing to provide labor to clear and re-establish the cemetery in all respects.

I surveyed the cemetery Thursday, 14 September 1989 and interviewed six senior citizens of the Little Elk community. From my best estimate the cemetery is about 2 acres and contains more than 300 graves. Oral history from residents indicate that the cemetery was established shortly after the Civil War for the newly built Little Elk Church. The church is now 114 years old, however, burial in the Lucy cemetery ended around 1936. This date is established because Ms. Unity Smith, buried that year, was the first person buried at the current Little Elk Church and cemetery.

I am compiling a list of families who buried in the cemetery. Members of most of the family still reside in the Little Elk Community. They include: Yarbroughs, Weavers, Freemans, Cunninghams, Bettingfields, Simmons, Smiths, and Joneses.

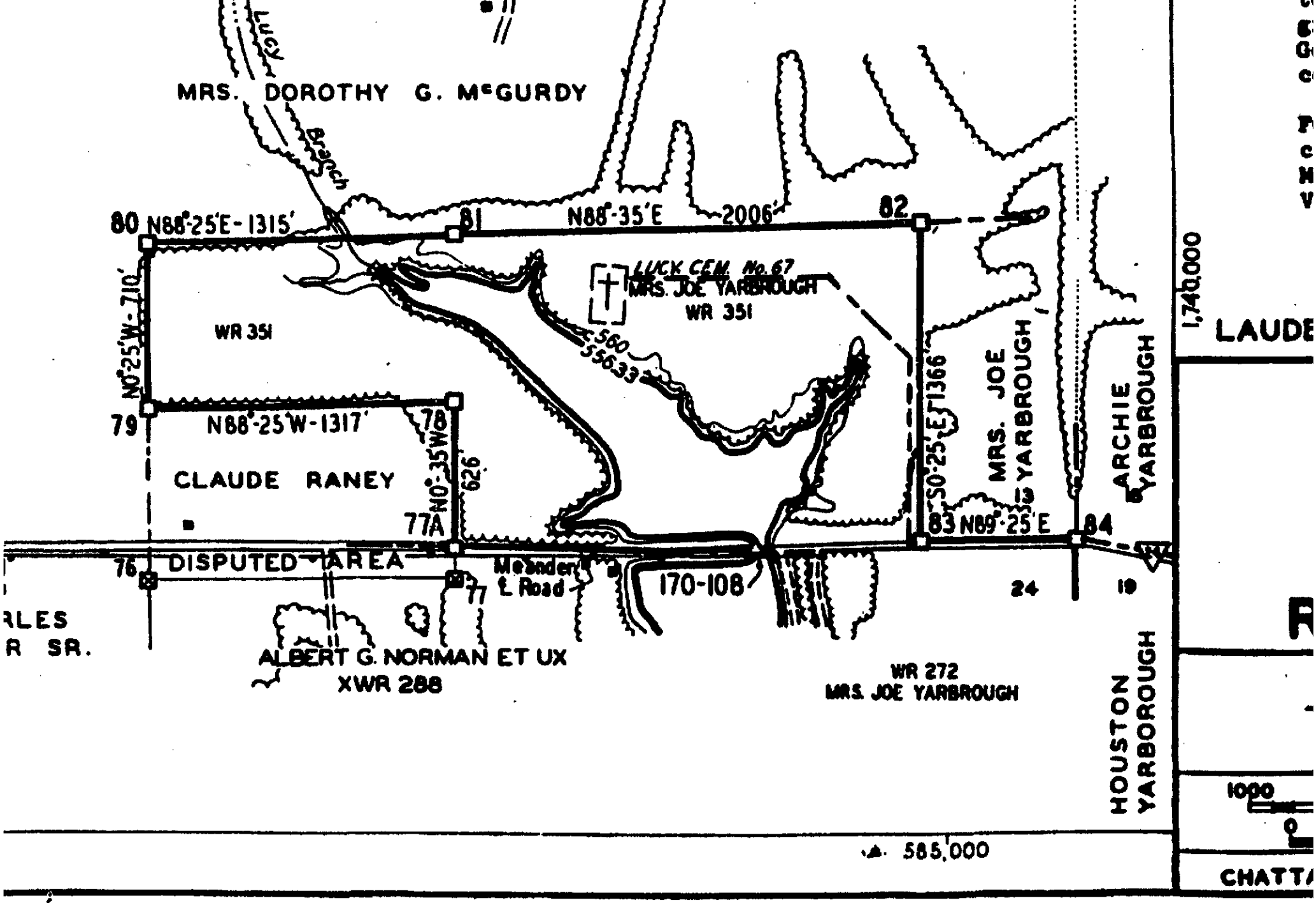
Please contact me for any information or assistance you need in getting this project completed. My day and night phone is (205) 539-2406.

Encl 1.

Sincerely,

Houston A. Yarbrough

Houston A. Yarbrough


MRS. DOROTHY G. McGURDY
Lucy Branch
80 N88°-25'E-1315'
81
N88°-35'E
2006'
82
LUCK CEM. No. 67
MRS. JOE YARBROUGH
WR 351
WR 351
N0°-25'W-710'
79
N88°-25'W-1317'
78
N0°-35'W
626'
CLAUDE RANEY
77A
560
556.33
S0°-25'E-1366'
MRS. JOE YARBROUGH
ARCHIE YARBROUGH
83 N89°-25'E
84
76
DISPUTED AREA
77
Meander
L Road
170-108
24
19
ALBERT G. NORMAN ET UX
XWR 288
WR 272
MRS. JOE YARBROUGH
HOUSTON YARBROUGH
1,740,000
LAUDE
1000
0
585,000
CHATTA

602 Wilburn Street
Athens, AL 35611
February 15, 1991

Mr. Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader
Wheeler Reservoir Land Plan
TVA
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman,

I understand that there is to be a public hearing on land use for Wheeler Reservoir property which is owned by TVA.

I will not be able to attend the public hearing but would like to voice an opinion and concern in this matter. Realizing that the owning and upkeep of these properties is a liability to TVA, I would certainly like to see TVA hold in their reserve enough property on the Limestone County side of the river property adequate to accomodate a loading dock for barges. Though the need may not be imminent the future will surely call for this dock.

At a public hearing this idea should be held to a minimum because the group who are adamently fighting a regional landfill would immediately surmise that this dock would be used for getting garbage to a landfill. This is not the case at all; in fact, I personally would oppose a loading dock for that purpose. If we are to grow, the need for an industrial loading dock for river traffic will surely be imminent.

As a footnote to this letter, I would like to suggest that someone with TVA contact Mr. Johnny Black, the Chairman of the Limestone County Commission, to see if any interest could be generated for the County to develop the Lucy Branch property into a county-owned, self-sustaining public golf course.

I am very interested in seeing that Limestone County and TVA form a partnership to further develop an industrial climate for our people. Working together we can do this.

I currently serve on the Athens Industrial Board, Athens-Limestone County Industrial Foundation, and am President-elect of the Athens-Limestone Industrial Association. If further information is needed, please feel free to call me at (205) 232-4815.

Sincerely,

Oscar O Barker

Oscar O. Barker

3/1/91

Vic Daily
109 Bobwhite Dr. S.E.
Decatur, ALA 35603

Spencer Boardman
Project Leader
Wheeler Land Planning

Dear Mr. Boardman,

I appreciate you sending me the information on the future land use on Wheeler Lake. I will be out of town on the days of the meetings but would like to be involved in this process

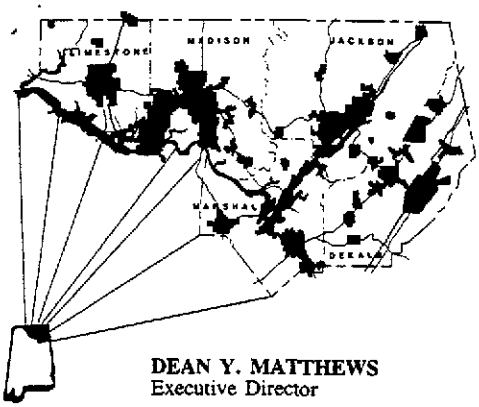
Although I will not be able to attend the meetings I do have a couple of proposals to be taken into consideration,

1.) Propose the area between Champion Papers and Freeman Acres subdivision (mile 283.5 to 279.25) be designated as a park and preserved in perpetuity.

2.) I am the Alabama Ducks Unlimited Marsh Chairman. My responsibilities include targeting wetland areas for enhancement or acquisition and if TVA knows of any on Wheeler Resevoir worthy of investigation I would be glad to work with you.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 18
MAR 04 '91

...ORE		
...ROZELL-ETHERTON		
...ARRIS		
...McDONOUGH		
...OWNER		
...ILLER		
...PENCER		
...URTIS		
...AMBROSE		
...BOARDMAN		
...ELDING	CALVERT	
...KIBBEN	DANBY	
...NITH	HALL	
...HRESS	PACK	
...ILES		



Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments

115 Washington Street S.E.

Huntsville, Alabama 35801-4827
Telephone (205) 533-3330
Fax (205) 533-3442

DEAN Y. MATTHEWS
Executive Director

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HARVEY POSS

RICHARD SHOWERS, SR.

THORNTON STANLEY

DAVID STOUT

RANDY TUMLIN

JIMMY WALL, JR.

HUBERT WARD

ROBERT WHITE

March 4, 1991

Mr. Spencer Boardman, Land Use Specialist
Lands Planning
Tennessee Valley Authority
125 Natural Resources Boulevard
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

Please consider this as input for your land planning of Wheeler Reservoir.

As a fellow Planner, I share your interest in arriving at the correct use of all land about the Tennessee River and its tributaries. I believe special attention needs to be given toward preserving appropriate land for industry.

Substantial public investments have been made to facilitate industrial development within the Valley. The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway was completed at a cost of about $1.8 billion. According to cost-benefit studies, North Alabama is expected to be the primary beneficiary of this project. However, it will be necessary to reserve large tracts of land for industries dependent on water-born transportation if our region is to take full advantage of the navigation improvements already made.

Industries cannot compete against residences for the limited land which is available. Last week, I learned that one lot (less than one acre) in Guntersville sold for $145,000. Much of the TVA riverfront is appropriately classed as "wetlands" and it better suited as a wildlife reserve. Much of the land has steep topography and is likewise unsuited to industry. Clearly, there needs to be some method of reserving land exclusively for industrial use at strategic locations. The cost of land along the Tennessee River and its reservoirs is so high that is seem prohibitive to purchase the land in fee simple and await the eventual location of an industry.

A clear demarkation of land reserved for industrial

purposes would give ample notice to all land owners of this intended land use. Certainly we should restrict the types of industry sort for waterfront location. They should be environmentally acceptable regarding such performance standards as odor; particulant matter; and other air pollution. The industry should meet firm water pollution standards and other reasonable controls which would make it a good neighbor.

Again, I hope you will give considerable attention to land requirements for industry so that the Tennessee River system and it reservoirs can fulfill its obligation in helping to provide for job creation as well as recreation, flood control, power production and the like.

Enclosed is a copy of TARCOG's year 2005 generalized land use map for your information.

Sincerely,

Dean Y. Matthews

Dean Y. Matthews, A.I.C.P.
Executive Director

DYM:wgk

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
& ADMINISTRATION
File # 6
MAR 11 '91

HOME	
[illegible]ZELL-ETHERTON	
[illegible]	
[illegible]DONOUGH	
[illegible]	
[illegible]LLER	
[illegible]PENCER	
[illegible]RTIS	
[illegible]ROSE	
[illegible]	
FIELDING	CALVERT
[illegible]	DANBY
[illegible]	HALL
[illegible]	PACK
FILES	

Spencer D. Boardman
Project Leader
Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning

15 March 1991

Mr. Boardman,

I want to thank you for the invitation to attend the Wheeler Land Planning meeting on March 20. Unfortunately I will be taking a final exam that night and will be unable to attend. However, there are some comments that I would like to make.

I spent six years with TVA conducting water quality studies at the Cumberland Power Plant and on the TN River from Guntersville Reservoir to the Ohio River. What was depressing was the amount of garbage that was in the water; cans, bottles, plastics, paper, wood products. It caused some of us to wonder if such quantities of solid waste were getting into the water, what other substances were ending up there too? It would be good to see a real asserted public campaign to get communities along the reservoir system to see the water as something other than a toilet.

Habitat destruction has a great impact on our wildlife populations. It is a known fact that the edge effect in wildlife management offers the greatest habitat diversity. I would like to see TVA plan for vegetation buffer zones around all water sources it can control. Not only just the immediate reservoir bank, but all feeder water ways; rivers, stream, creeks, seeps, seasonal drainage paths.
We should strongly control agricultural, industrial or community development right up to the water's edge.

I do realize that such an undertaking would step on many toes and the size of such a buffer zone would be contested. Economic reasons would in some areas require development to the water's edge, but I still feel that the maximum size one could negotiate would benefit all in the long run. We seem to have some difficulty these days thinking in terms of long payoffs, but we should still try.

Again, I regret that I will not be able to attend your meeting but I hope my comments will be of some benefit.

Sincerely,

Thomas Gre
102 Lewis Ln
Madison, AL 35758

2322 County Road 87
Moulton, AL 35650

March 15, 1991

Mr. Buster Smith
Manager, Property Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
OSA-1A
Muscle Shoals, AL 35660

Dear Mr. Smith:

I own lot #28 in Freeman Acres Subdivision, and I am requesting permission to construct a water access facility in the form of a small wooden pier, which would be located in the mouth of a small slough and out of the main harbor channel (see attached charts. This pier would be used for public recreation purposes only and not for permanent boat storage. It would be built on wooden posts in water depth less than 7 feet, and would be approximately 4 feet wide by 30 feet long.

I am aware that this area is designated as a "Safety Harbor" and that other property owners have made similar requests over the years which were denied by the TVA. However, I contend that the pier I am requesting permission to build would not hinder in any way the use of this waterway as a "Safety Harbor" (and would significantly be more out of the main channel than the large pier currently existing at the mouth of the harbor, as noted on the attached chart).

I would appreciate your evaluation of this request relative to: (1) hinderance to boaters using "Safety Harbor", (2) asset to boaters using "Safety Harbor" (would offer needed access to shore for boaters in need of help), (3) number of instances in which "Safety Harbor" has actually been used for "safety purposes", and (4) improved public relations between TVA, private property owners, and the general public.

I sincerely hope you will make a positive evaluation on this request in my favor. I am a government (NASA) employee with plans to retire in another year and would greatly appreciate improved water access privileges to the Tennessee River.

(PJ 4/4/91)

Sincerely,

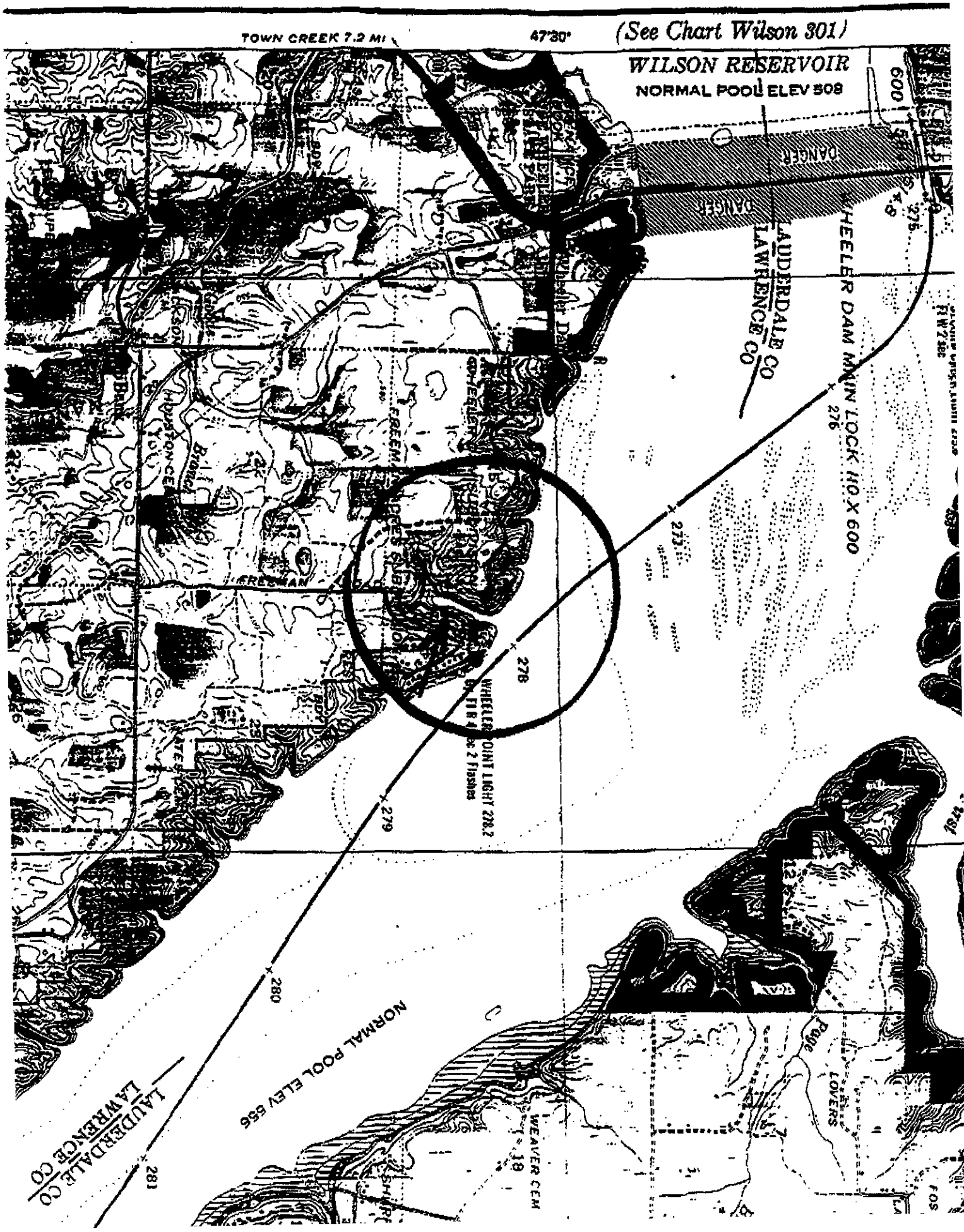
Billy W. Shelton

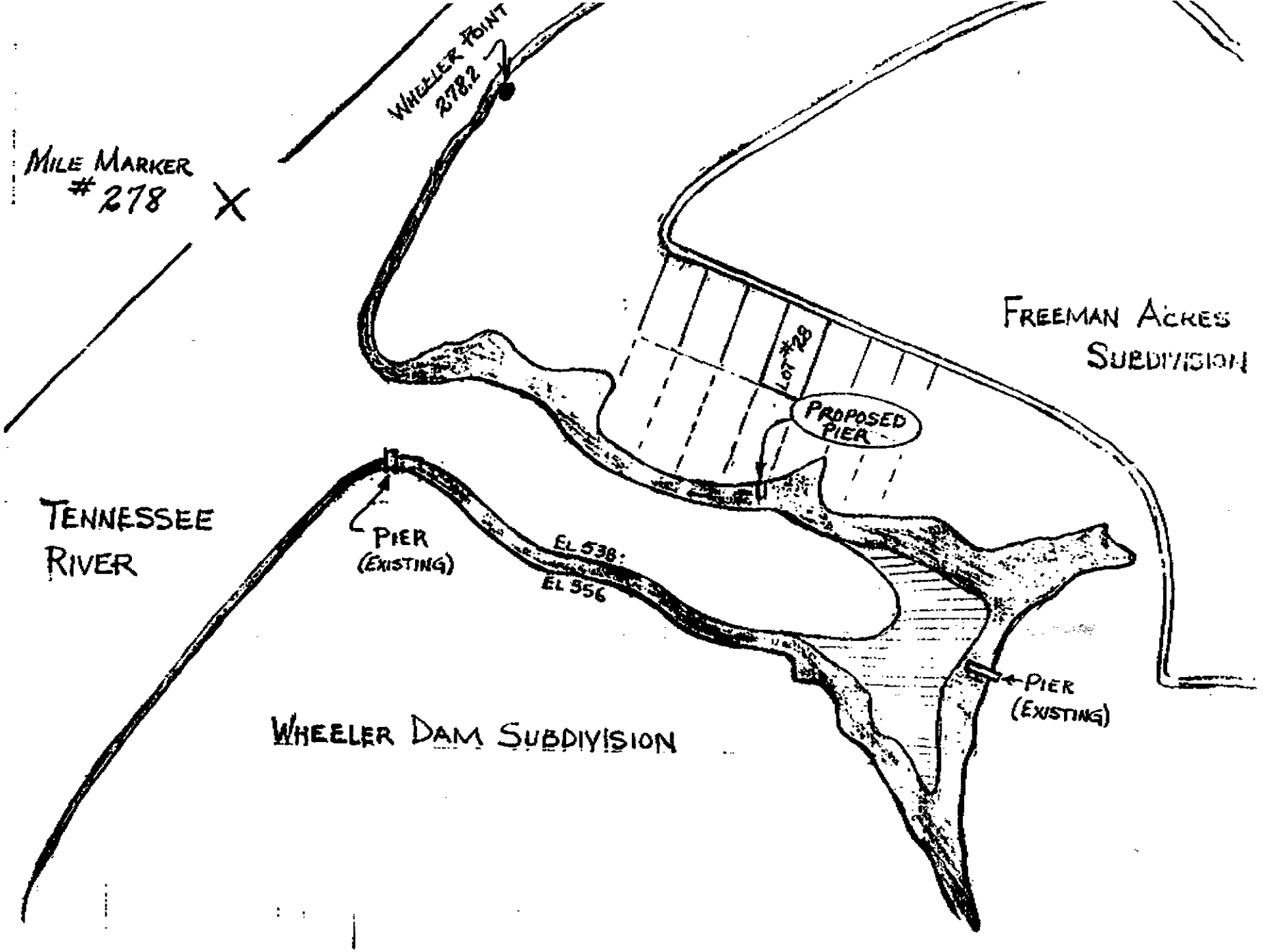
Billy W. Shelton

Enclosures

cc:
Mr. Truit Fore
Manager, Property Management &
Administration Dept., Norris, TN

4/10/91
faxed to Lisa L-E/FAL


(See Chart Wilson 301)
WILSON RESERVOIR
NORMAL POOL ELEV 509
TOWN CREEK 7.2 MI
47'30"
DANGER
DANGER
WHEELER DAM MAIN LOCK 110 X 600
LAUDERDALE CO
LAWRENCE CO
WHEELER POINT LIGHT 278.2
NORMAL POOL ELEV 556
LAUDERDALE CO
LAWRENCE CO
276
277
278
279
280
281
600



REF.: TVA NAVIGATION CHART No. 401 (WHEELER RESERVOIR)

SECTION 4

Wheeler Reservoir Planning

Goals and Objectives

SECTION 4

Introduction

Part one of this section directs attention toward the Wheeler planning team's vision for the development of a quality land management plan. It is important for the public to have a clear understanding of TVA's corporate goal and how the planning team directs its energy toward serving our customers through the planning process.

A second part focuses on the land management goals and specific objectives for Wheeler Reservoir. The draft goals and objectives were developed from public comments and TVA program staff input. It is important for participants in the process to review the draft goals and objectives to ensure that the planning team captured the significant values, comments, and visions for the future of Wheeler Reservoir lands and related resources.

VISION STATEMENT

THE WHEELER PLANNING TEAM: VISION STATEMENT

The vision expressed by many of the citizens who participated in the workshops advocated a balance or "wise use" of the 13,000 acres of public lands and natural resources around Wheeler Reservoir.

TVA's corporate vision, as defined by its Board of Directors, is to become the most productive and effective Agency in Federal government. To meet this goal, emphasis is being placed on customer service, and a constant search for improvement in the quality of our products and services to meet those needs. TVA's Property Management and Administration Department has identified its primary customer as you, the public. More specific, our clients are the owners and users of TVA reservoirs and properties. Furthermore, the department has identified our primary product as confidence in quality land management. It is important to TVA that we earn this confidence by demonstrating that our department's staff can work as a team with the citizens of the Valley. TVA's Reservoir Lands Planning staff and planning team is working toward these customer-driven objectives by developing a reservoir land management plan that will incorporate public values with TVA's values of SERVICE, QUALITY, CHANGE, COMMITMENT, AND CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP.

Therefore, the Wheeler planning team has dedicated its energy and combined expertise toward serving our customer and developing a final land management plan that will:

- SERVE the region and Nation's citizens through efficient and effective programs. The plan will provide guidelines and direction for wise use of our natural and economic resources.

- Be a QUALITY product and reflect quality team work and communication within the Agency, as well as with other agencies, organizations, and the general public.

- Embrace CHANGE as part of a constant search for improvement. As the needs of our region and Nation change, so will the demands on public lands change. The reservoir planning process incorporates a formal procedure to handle changes in land use after a plan has been approved. TVA continues to monitor future growth pressures, economic trends, and environmental conditions around its reservoirs to identify long-term change. At regular intervals (approximately every ten years) TVA will revisit those reservoirs formally planned and will update and evaluate the supporting data base, including public participation input.

- Reflect a COMMITMENT to incorporate public needs and values into TVA's decision-making process. The plan clearly identifies sites for different land uses and TVA staff has committed itself to provide accurate information and faster responses to requests for use of public lands. The planning team has committed itself to provide adjoining property owners a clear statement of how TVA intends to manage its lands, attempting to minimize conflicting land uses. Reservoir Lands Planning has traditionally committed its program budget toward the development of land management plans for those mainstream and tributary reservoirs which exhibit significant public land ownership around its shoreline.

- Contribute to corporate awareness supporting accountability through accomplishment of the reservoir goals and objectives outlined in the

plan. The plan identifies opportunities where TVA and communities can work in partnership to improve Valley resources. By taking the lead toward implementation of the Land Management Plan, TVA will be taking one more step toward becoming a responsible CORPORATE CITIZEN, making sure land management decisions enhance the communities that provide them a home.

RLP-5637L

DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

WHEELER RESERVOIR LANDS PLANNING
DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Introduction

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) manages its reservoir properties to meet a wide range of regional and local resource development needs. Reservoir lands, together with adjoining private property, has been used for, but not limited to, recreation area and industrial site development, as well as agricultural, forestry, wildlife and cultural resource management. Today's increasing demand for the use of these reservoir lands sometimes results in conflicting and uneconomical land use patterns and/or friction between public and private use. These competing interests and development pressures, coupled with current environmental awareness, underscore the necessity for a planned approach to the management of TVA's reservoir land and related resources.

The goals and objectives for Wheeler Reservoir reflect a wide range of uses for TVA fee-owned public lands. The Wheeler draft goals and objectives were developed from public comments and TVA program staff input. Please read and review the results carefully.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal: To promote environmentally sound economic development on Wheeler Reservoir.

Objective 1

Locate new industrial development near existing industries to minimize the environmental and aesthetic impact.

Objective 2

Encourage new industries to locate on adjacent private land and use designated corridors across TVA lands of access to the reservoir.

Objective 3

Provide sites for navigation facilities to meet current and future needs for commercial water transportation.

RECREATION

Goal: To help provide for a diversity of quality recreation opportunities on Wheeler Reservoir.

Objective 4

Designate TVA land throughout the reservoir area for undeveloped or informal recreational uses, such as hiking, hunting, picnicking, bank fishing, etc.

Objective 5

Identify sites for additional developed public recreation facilities.

Objective 6

Identify sites for additional quality commercial recreational development.

Objective 7

Improve existing access points for boat launching on the lake, and identify additional sites for development where needed.

Objective 8

Identify opportunities for one or more stream corridor developments to include access points for small boats, hiking trails, nature study, and picnic areas.

Objective 9

Identify sites for interpretive trails and environmental/ecological study areas near urban centers.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal: To manage, improve, and protect Forestry, Fisheries, Agricultural, and Wildlife Resources for future generations.

Objective 10

Protect and manage game and nongame wildlife habitats for appropriate public use and enjoyment.

Objective 11

Maintain agreements to provide lands for state wildlife management areas and evaluate opportunities for similar agreements with other agencies and organized groups.

Objective 12

Manage TVA forest lands to perpetuate a healthy and diverse forest environment for resource production and protection.

Objective 13

Minimize adverse land use impacts on fisheries by encouraging proper management through education and demonstration on public lands.

Objective 14

Preserve prime farmland by keeping these lands in agriculture or other natural resource uses, such as reforestation and/or wildlife habitat.

Objective 15

Initiate conservation programs for idle or unlicensed agricultural lands through reforestation and/or establishment of wildlife habitat.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Goal: To protect and conserve the environmental quality of the reservoir and adjoining lands.

Objective 16

Protect or preserve the natural beauty and visual quality of TVA public land, especially the reservoir shoreline.

Objective 17

Designate sites to provide long-term protection for sensitive plant and animal species and unique or unusual communities currently under or recommended for state or Federal protection.

Objective 18

Preserve and protect existing wetlands and riparian habitats.

Objective 19

Help protect and enhance water quality through appropriate land management activities.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Goal: To protect and preserve the Cultural Resources of the reservoir and nearby areas.

Objective 20

Ensure TVA's full compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

Objective 21

Minimize adverse land use impacts on significant archaeological and historical resources.

RLP-5637L

United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
75 SPRING STREET, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
30303

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

August 14, 1991

Mr. Ralph Jordan
Tennessee Valley Authority
Natural Resources Bldg.
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Dear Ralph:

Approximately 1 year ago some discussions were held regarding the Fish and Wildlife Service's interest in the old fish ponds located on Elk River in northern Alabama.

This area (the ponds) may be suitable for some experimental work regarding the testing of methods to control alligator weed. This aquatic weed causes a problem on many of our Southeastern refuges, and we hope to find biological or chemical means of control. An area having water control and a series of ponds for experimental testing procedures (replicates of treatments) is needed. The Elk River site may be suitable; therefore, I am asking Mr. Ron Freeman at our Auburn University Field Office in Auburn, Alabama, (205) 844-4796 to contact you regarding an inspection of the site.

We appreciate your efforts to aid us in this inspection.

Sincerely yours,

Phillip S. Morgan

(For) Harold W. Benson
Assistant Regional Director
Refuges and Wildlife

cc:
Wildlife Management
Biologist, FWS,
Auburn, AL

TELEPHONE COMMENT: July 18, 1991

TO: Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader, Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning, Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, Tennessee 37828

I am a resident of Limestone County and request to be placed on record stating I am opposed to cutting trees for the purposes of sustaining any timber or chip mill industry. I would also ask that no public lands be allocated for industry of any kind on Wheeler Reservoir. We need to preserve, in its natural state, what little public lands we have left for future generations to enjoy.

Mrs. Daloris Howard
P.O. Box 47
Elkmont, Alabama 35620
(205) 732-4670

Confirmed by phone with Daloris Howard per Spencer Boardman on 7/19/91.

RLP-5592L

The group identified several areas along the reservoir that could be best utilized as recreational. These designated areas include Spring Creek, Lock A (old Lawrence County Park), an abandoned state park west of the Wheeler Dam and possibly a small area near Mallard Creek. It was also decided that the remaining TVA property should be designated industrial. This would include property west of Champion International and some property east of the Spring Creek recreational area.

In addition, this plan has been shared in subsequent meetings with TVA's Bob Buchanan and he has noted this on his development maps. We also had several individuals from our planning meeting voice these same opinions during your public workshop held in Decatur on March 21, 1991.

Thank you for allowing us to participate in this important process. We look forward to making the Lawrence County section of the Wheeler Reservoir the best in the TVA system.

Sincerely,

Mickey Moseley

M. C. Moseley, III
Executive Director

cc: Bob Buchanan
Barbara Coffey
Joan Lang
Tony Lentz
Larry LouAllen
Rudy McCarley
Floyd Shankle

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
& ADMINISTRATION
File # _____
JUN 28 '91
FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
ARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
FIELDING
CALVERT
GARRY
HALL
FILES

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Economic Development Authority

June 26, 1991

Mr. Spencer D. Boardman
Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning
Tennessee Valley Authority
Norris, TN 37828

RE: Wheeler Reservoir Development Plan

Dear Mr. Boardman:

The Wheeler Reservoir is a major resource for the people of Lawrence County. We have seen the benefits and mistakes made by others as they have developed their river and lakefront properties. Hopefully, we can learn from others in the Tennessee Valley as we seek to develop this great resource.

As you know, most of the Lawrence County shoreline is undeveloped. The exceptions to this include the Wheeler Dam and recreational area, Champion International and to a certain extent the river access areas at Spring Creek and Mallard Creek.

In March 1991, prior to your series of public workshops, we held a planning meeting here in Lawrence County. The meeting was attended by Barbara Coffey, Mayor of Moulton, Rudy McCarley, Mayor of Courtland, Larry LouAllen and Floyd Shankle, Lawrence County Commissioners, Tony Lentz, President of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, Joan Lang, Lawrence County Administrator and myself.

P.O. Box 788 • Moulton, Alabama 35650 • (205) 974-5505 • FAX (205) 974-5585

NAIDA

Central Bank Building / P. O. Box 1668 / Decatur, Alabama 35602 / (205) 353-9450 / FAX (205) 353-5982

June 26, 1991

Mr. Spencer D. Boardman
Land Use Specialist
Reservoir Lands Planning
Land Resources
Tennessee Valley Authority
Ridgeway Road
Norris, Tennessee 37828-2012

Dear Mr. Boardman:

We enjoyed our visit with you, Messrs. Smith and Johnson regarding the Wheeler Reservoir land use.

We have submitted and shown the property west of Champion in Lawrence County to prospects in the past. The Bibb property near Mallard Creek of 500 plus acreage is available under one ownership and a verbal commitment has been made. Also, the Mallard Fox Creek Industrial Park has all utilities and infrastructure in place and is available for prospects both large and small.

Again, we enjoyed your visit and look forward to seeing you in the future.

Sincerely,

John Washburn

J.R. Washburn
Executive Director

JRW:mlw

cc: Robert E. Buchanan
W.E. Smith

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
ADMINISTRATION
File # _____

JUN 2 5 91

FORE	
MIZELL ETHERTON	
HARRIS	
McDONOUGH	
FOWLER	
MILLER	
SPENCER	
CURTIS	
AMBROSE	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	HALL
[illegible]	[illegible]

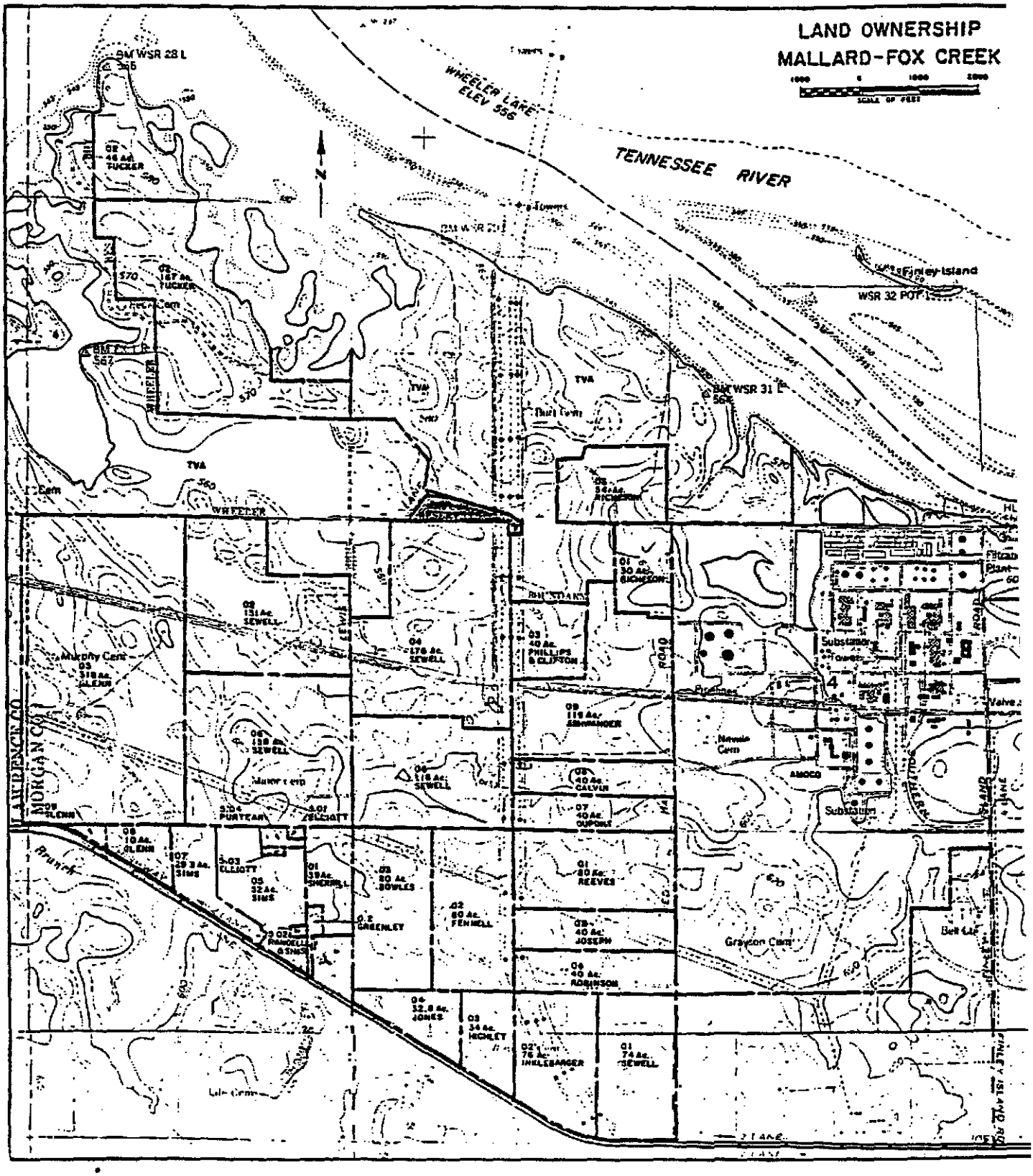

LAND OWNERSHIP
MALLARD-FOX CREEK
SCALE OF FEET
TENNESSEE RIVER
WHEELER LAKE
ELEV 556
Finley Island
WSR 32 POT
BM WSR 28 L
BM WSR 31 L
TVA
WHEELER
Burt Cem
Murphy Cem
Minor Cem
Newsie Cem
Grayson Cem
Substation
AMOCO
LAWRENCE CO
MORGAN CO
Branch
Lile Cem
FINLEY ISLAND RD
02 46 Ac. TUCKER
02 167 Ac. TUCKER
02 54 Ac. RICHESON
01 30 Ac. RICHESON
03 40 Ac. PHILLIPS & CLIFTON
09 119 Ac. SCHWANDER
08 40 Ac. CALVIN
07 40 Ac. DUPONT
01 80 Ac. REEVES
03 40 Ac. JOSEPH
04 40 Ac. ROBINSON
02 80 Ac. FENNELL
03 80 Ac. BOWLES
02 GREENLEY
04 32.8 Ac. JONES
03 34 Ac. HIGHLEY
02 76 Ac. INKLEBARGER
01 74 Ac. SEWELL
08 151 Ac. SEWELL
04 176 Ac. SEWELL
06 138 Ac. SEWELL
06 118 Ac. SEWELL
09 GLENN
08 10 Ac. GLENN
07 29.3 Ac. SIMS
5.03 ELLIOTT
05 52 Ac. SIMS
01 39 Ac. SHERRILL
5.04 PURTEAR
5.01 ELLIOTT
5.02 RANDELL & SIMS

FIGURE 6-1

The Sun Belt Profit Center
Morgan County

MORGAN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 2026 • DECATUR, ALABAMA 35602 • (205) 353-1213 FAX NO. (205) 353-0407

June 25, 1991

Mr. Spencer D. Boardman
Land Use Specialist
Reservoir Lands Planning
Land Resources
Tennessee Valley Authority
Ridgeway Road
Norris, Tennessee 37828-2012

Dear Mr. Boardman:

As you are aware, the Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority, the Tennessee Valley Authority and all the governing bodies of Morgan County have worked together in order to develop Mallard Fox Creek Industrial Park and Port - a water front industrial park of over 1,000 acres. At this time, over $15 million has been spent in land acquisition and infrastructure development at the park.

With limited water front property the park has been designed to provide water access by pipeline, conveyor belts and other suitable methods to those industries not located directly on the water. It was felt this was the best way to maximize both the waterfront and interior properties.

As the attached map shows, the small parcel of land immediately north of the Sewell property (currently designated "reservation") prevents a continuous border of industrial property. The obstacle presented by this property is detrimental to both present and future development of the industrial park.

We strongly believe that changing the status of the property in question will enhance the development of the park and will be in accordance with TVA's efforts to develop large industrial property.

Any consideration you can give us in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tommy Ed Roberts

Tommy Ed Roberts, CID
Executive Director

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # _____
JUN 27 '91

2. Affix a fair market value to the property and give the adjacent land owner an opportunity to buy the land or;

3. Continue to give adjacent property owners the right to build steps, wharfs, docks, boathouses, and to trim unsightly underbrush and clear dead or deceased trees.

In Mr. Smith's letter he states that "The TVA land (Tract No. XWR-70R) adjoining your property is being retained for uses associated with operation of Wheeler Reservoir." I would like to know what these uses are? Also, why does TVA feel that it is necessary to make a reservoir land use plan at this time? Has TVA held any public meetings and invited land owners to give their input? If so what was the outcome of these meetings? If not when does TVA plan on holding public meetings on this project? When was the last land use plan conducted and what conclusions came out of that study concerning the use of the land by adjacent land owners?

I appreciate your time in this matter and I look forward to hearing from you as I would like to start making plans to make my home on the lake an enjoyable place to live. At this time my plans call for building a house with a deck overlooking the river. The deck would have steps leading down to an intermediate deck and then continue to a wharf, dock, and boathouse. To accomplish this will take a considerable amount of time and money and that is why I need to know what TVA plans to do. I will also talk to the other land owners concerning your reply so that they will be up-to-date on all matters which would concern their property and its value.

Sincerely,

Connie A. Allen

Connie A. Allen

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Tom Gilbert

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
& ADMINISTRATION
File #
JUN 28 '91

1311 Aldridge Drive
Huntsville, Al 35803
June 25, 1991

FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FORSTER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
MARBUSE
STARTGUAN
FIELDING
CALDWELL
BERGSEN
DANIEL
SMITH
HALL
GRESS
PACK
FILES

Spencer Boardman, Project Leader
TVA, Natural Resources Building
Ridgeway Road
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Ref. Mr. W.E. Smith's letter dated June 5, 1991

Dear Mr. Boardman:

I recently purchased Lot 9 of Hampton Campsite Addition 1. I was talking to Mr. Danny Johnson at TVA's Southern Land Resources District Office about getting a permit to build a dock, boathouse, steps, and clearing undergrowth when he informed me of TVA's land use study. Mr. Johnson said that it would be some time before TVA decided what would happen to the TVA property adjoining mine. He did give me three alternatives for its use:

1. TVA would allow no use of the land to anyone.
2. TVA would continue to issue or sell permits to allow adjacent land owners use of the land.
3. TVA would have the land appraised and then hold a public auction.

Mr Johnson then said he would get a letter out to the property owners asking each one for their input as to the use of the land. About three weeks later I received the referenced letter. I have enclosed a copy of the letter.

As you can see the letter made no mention of the three items listed above nor did it ask for any input. Anyway, I would like to give you my input on the land and ask a few questions.

I have been talking to Mr. Tom Gilbert who purchased the house (lot 10) next to my lot. I believe we are in agreement with what TVA should do about the adjoining land and I will send him a copy of this letter. My comments to the above three items are as follows:

1. Mr Gilbert and I both purchased our property knowing that TVA has given other property owners permission to clear, and build steps, docks, boat houses, and wharfs. To deny us and others the same rights to enjoy the scenic view and pleasure of the river would be most inappropriate of TVA.

2. This is all that was expected from TVA when we purchased our property.

3. The third alternative would be totally unacceptable to not only Mr. Gilbert and me, but also I believe to everyone else who owns land adjacent to TVA property. If someone else was able to outbid me for the TVA land connected to my property I would be completely shut off from the river. This would cause property values to fall to about one fourth of their present value. Why own land at the river if you do not have access to the water?

I think TVA should do the following:

1. Sell the adjacent land to the property owners for $1.00 or;

Spenser D. Boardman
Project Leader
Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning

Jun 25, 1991

Dear Mr. Boardman;

Thank you for your invitation of Feb. 25 to attend the project development workshop of March 19, 20 and 21. I was out of town on those days and was sorry to miss the opportunity to participate. I would very much appreciate receiving a report on the results of the meeting. Though I do not live on Wheeler Lake, as one who lives downstream I feel that all of us "downstream" are affected by Lake Wheeler's waters and adjacent lands.

One thought I would like to express is my extreme concern about the proposed assault on our Tennessee Valley woodlands by lumber companies hoping to desecrate our forests in pursuit of the all-mighty dollar. I have seen the results of clear-cutting in some Western states, and it is hard to describe the revulsion I feel when remembering the sight of such absolute mayhem. Surely TVA, the agency dedicated to make The Valley a better place to live, will not give in to the chipping companies waiting in the wings with their mammoth trucks and bulldozers, ready to destroy thousands of years of Nature's handiwork so that the world can continue to receive plenty of junk mail!

I'm sure you have seen the results of clear-cutting too, so I should not need to say more on that subject. Suffice it to say that I hope you will make a wise and ecologically sound use of the 13,000 acres on Wheeler and any other acreage in your power to control.

Sincerely,

Betty L. Martin
R 1 Box 949
Sheffield, Al 35661

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File #
JUN 27 '91
O-M
MILL-ETHERTON
JAMES
MADONOUGH
HOWSER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
FIELDING
BURGREN
SMITH
THOMAS
CALVERT
JANBY
HALL
PACK
FILES

BETTY L. MARTIN
R.R. 1 BOX 949
SHEFFIELD, AL 35661

I know that the Shoals Industrial Development Authority is very interested in this land also. Former Director Jim Brown and I contacted TVA in Sheffield, Alabama about a prospect that did not work out.

We appreciate TVA and what you do for us in the Rogersville area. Thank you for any consideration you can give to our request.

Yours truly,

Jarvis L. Brewer

Jarvis L. Brewer, Chairman

JLB/jwh

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
& ADMINISTRATION
File # 3
JUN 17 '91

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

TOWN OF ROGERSVILLE

P. O. Box 540
Phone 247-5446
Rogersville, Alabama 35652

CHAIRMAN:
Jarvis Brewer

MEMBERS:
Danny Rosson
Jimmy Belew
Roscoe Lamoray
Tom Thompson
James Hagood
Robert Gresham
James Cagle
Richard Herston
Alan Vines

June 14, 1991

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Resource Lands Planning
Wheeler Land Use
125 Natural Resources Building
Morris, TN 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

A few weeks ago I attended a TVA meeting at Clements High School in Limestone County regarding Wheeler Lake land use. I would like to first commend you and your staff for the way this meeting was structured and conducted. Mr. Robert Buchanan, Jr., Tere McDonough and the others who conducted this meeting were very informative and professional. Everyone had an opportunity to express views and make their points.

My purpose for attending the meeting on behalf of the Rogersville Industrial Development Board was to request that certain land be reserved if possible for Industrial uses. Our Industrial Park is located on the road leading to this property and about two miles distance. There are more than one hundred acres in this tract. Mr. Buchanan has a map with the location and description of the land. Part of this land is very suitable for a Port or docking facility. This could be a valuable asset to our industrial recruiting efforts. We do not have a prospect at this time for this property, but would appreciate your consideration for reserving this land for possible industrial use.

Mr. Lane and others at TVA have been very helpful to us-in locating the land for our Park and making plat maps of possible divisions of parcels. We have just sold the last of the commercial part of the park and are ready for industrial sales. We believe the Tennessee River is our most valuable asset, other than our people. We have refused at least three large industrial clients that wanted to locate in our park because we felt there was a chance industrial dyes or bleaches would reach the river. We would use the same rigid restrictions in locating any industries on the land we are asking you to reserve.

Lacey's Spring Community Association

June 3, 1991

Mr. W.E. Smith
Tennessee Valley Authority
Property Management
Southern Land Resources District
170 OS WHA
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

JUN 12 '91

FORE | ROZELL-ETHERTON | JARRIS | McDONOUGH | FOWLER | MILLER | SPENCER | CURTIS | AMBROSE | FIELDING | BICKIBBEN | SMITH | THRESS | CALVERT | DANBY | HALL | PACK | FILES

Dear Mr. Smith:

Very close to Laceys Spring in Morgan County there are several parcels of TVA land. We are very interested in having one of these parcels adapted as a recreational area for East Morgan County. We are aware that a major portion of that area is in the floodplain. However, a recreational area would not be affected by occasional flooding.

To serve as a recreational area, we would suggest that it have the following features: a narrow strip of cleared land on the river's edge to serve as a "beach area"; a boat launching ramp for small (18 ft. or less) boats; a few cleared areas in the woods adequate to accommodate two to three picnic benches each. The picnic benches would either be made out of concrete blocks or would be anchored to protect against flood damage. Possibly some trails could also be laid out. However, even if only the picnic areas would be provided, the area would still provide a useful function.

One of the areas is served by a county road, though the road has not been maintained over the last few years. The area bordering lower Dry Creek has no road access but is located quite close to a county road. The latter area seems the most attractive area for recreational purposes.

If you are willing to cooperate on this issue with us, the community association is prepared to commit to work with the county to get a proper access road to the area. Also the association is prepared to accept responsibility for obtaining the labor and material to develop the area as described above.

We hope that you will give favorable consideration to our request.

Sincerely,

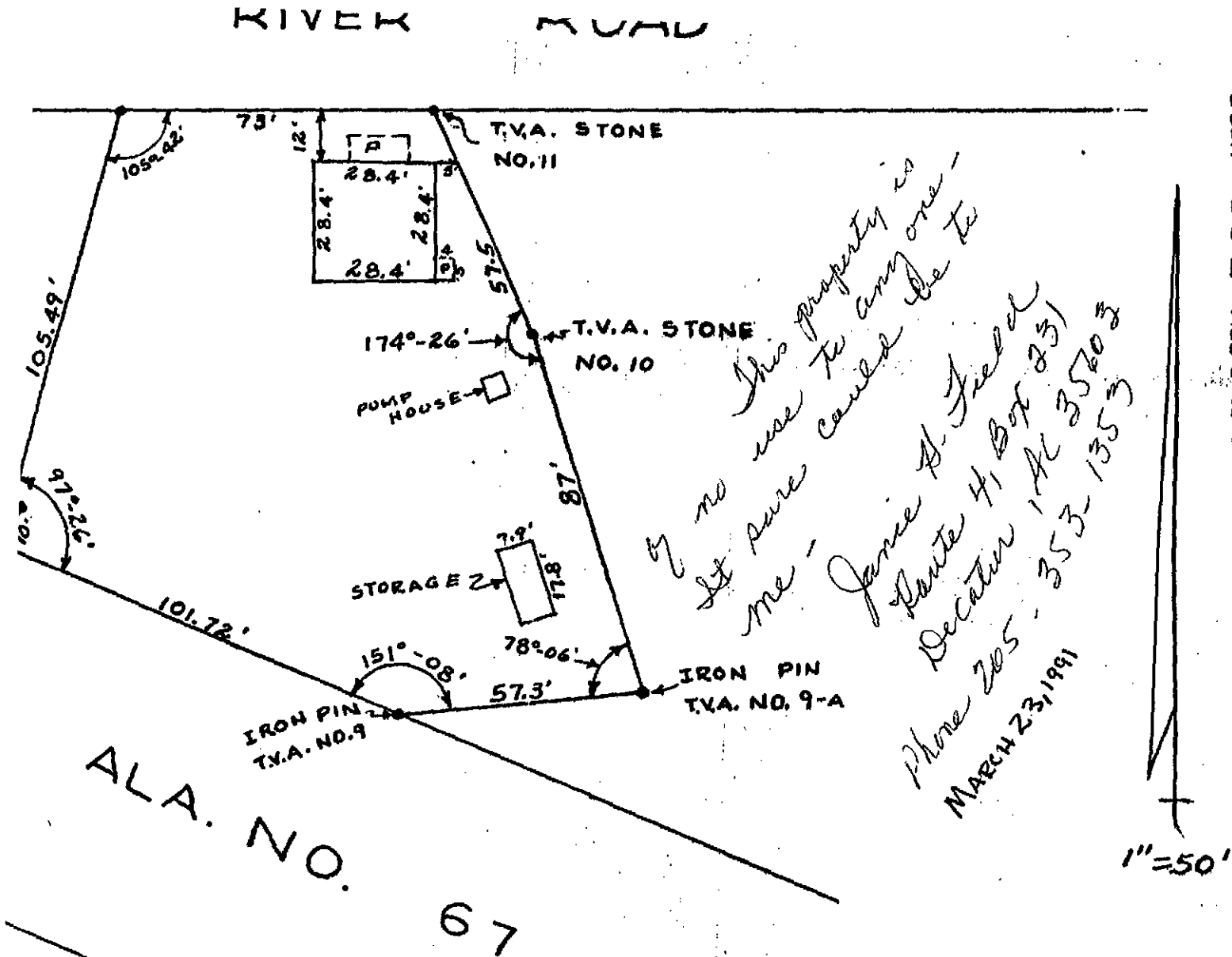
Terry Schansman, Trustee

WES:JDS, 6/10/91

cc: Spencer Boardman, NRB 1A-N--This should probably be considered in your Wheeler planning process rather than as a separate matter. We will be glad to work with you on it. W. E. Smith

Property Mgmt. Section
Date Rec'd: 6/14/91
WES
TEH
WRM
DRJ
TCG
CJH
SDM
BGF
JDS
SBH
Files

Rt. 2 Box 300 Lacey's Spring, Al 35754 (205) 881-7329



This property is of no use to anyone - It sure could be to me -
Janice H. Field
Route 4, Box 231
Decatur, AL 35603
Phone 205-353-1353
MARCH 23, 1991

IA)
)
)

To all interested Parties:

C. Smith, a registered Engineer-Surveyor of Decatur,
... this is a true and correct map or plat

4/22/91

Dear Sir

We attended the TVA. Classes you sponsored at Clements High School in March along with many others who are interested in the Joe Wheeler Lake area.

We received the Public Notice from the Corps of Engrs., Nashville District #91-50 Dated April 2, 1991 but in talking to others who signed a Petition to have Mr. Richard Whittle request to do Commercial Business from his Lot adjoining the TVA Boat Launch area refused we've not talked to any who have received this notice to know there is a deadline soon (May 2 '91) for them to renew their objections to a Commercial Business in our Residential area.

I'm sure you should also know that at the meeting you sponsored everyone voted for TVA to keep all Commercial Business's from the water-front property except in areas TVA would designate for such use.

All of us want to keep the TVA Boat Launch area for use by the residents here, and the persons who come from other areas of Al., and also Tn. because of its proximity to the Tenn. R. because if the Tenn. River becomes rough boating because of a sudden weather change this cove the TVA Lot is nigh to is a close place for sanctuary until the storm passes by.

If Mr. Whittle has a 50' dock there

7 and his large work barges there it will not only be an eye sore to this lovely area but would hinder boaters being able to tie up here until a storm is over.

Mr. Whittle has already shown that he will not tolerate anyone even beaching their boats on the beach in front of his property while the lake level was low by moving their boats to the up-river side of the boat launch ramp while their owners went for their boat trailers, or some such.

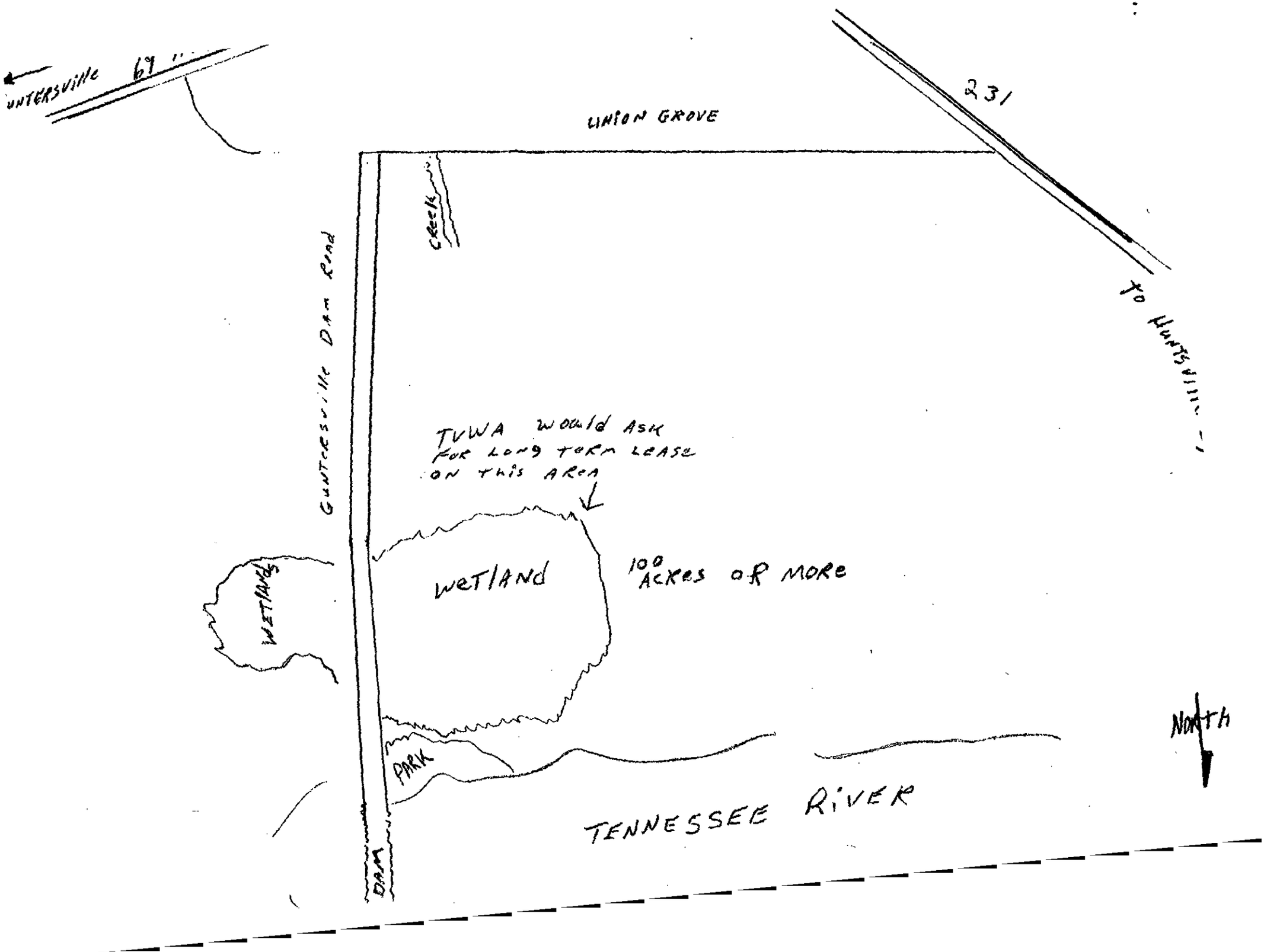
Another objection to his business here is the Noise Pollution as he loads his work materials onto his boats, as you know noise travels far by water and that type noise in a residential area just shouldn't happen. That noise rudely awakened us this morning after a sleepless night due to illness as Mr. Whittle was using the TVA Boat Ramp to load materials onto a work barge.

Please consider designating this cove as a Safety Area for small boats during a storm, as it has been for years by ones who know the area and let us Residents keep this strictly Residential. Many of us living here have rescued boaters in distress taking them into our homes during storms, or driving them to their homes, so we feel we've deserved the right to keep this area as is.

Thanking you in advance for any attentions you give this letter.

Most Sincerely

Louise E. Mobley
Route 3, Box 158
Rogersville, Al. 35652


UNTERSVILLE 69
UNION GROVE
231
TO HUNTSVILLE
CREEK
GUNTERSVILLE DAM ROAD
TVWA would ask
for long term lease
on this area
WETLAND
100 ACRES OR MORE
WETLANDS
PARK
DAM
TENNESSEE RIVER
NORTH

PROPOSAL FOR A WETLANDS PROJECT

For the past four years TVWA has been sharing an office and storage area at the Alabama Forestry Commission in Guntersville. Time has now come for us to seek an office space of our own.

TVWA would like to ask TVA for cooperation on obtaining a area for a wetland project with a small area that TVWA could use as a office and storage area. TVWA would keep this area scenic and not junk up this area. TVWA has been donated a nice trailer for an office.

There is a 150 to 200 acre beaver made wetlands near Guntersville Dam in Harshall County. This wetland is located south of Guntersville Dam on the Wheeler Lake side. This vast wetland would be perfect for woodduck nesting boxes and nesting structure for geese and ducks. TVWA is involved in a relocation project on giant Canada geese and a hand reared wild mallard release program. TVWA would not alter this area no more than necesary to construct our office and proprogation area. I understand that hunting is not allowed on this area now and this would certainly fit in our management plan.

TVA is now experimenting with lab grown mussels so this adventure of experiment with wild mallards would be no different. TVWA will be placing woodduck nesting boxes in this area and we all know this works.

If TVA is interesting in cooperating on this project, I do think we could get some positive publicity that would help both TVA and TVWA. Please discuss this with proper managers and get back with me. I will enclose my address, if you have any question or need more information.

I would like to thank TVA for providing area for public multi-use.

Sincerely,

Jerry Davis

Jerry D. Davis, C.E.O.
TVWA, Inc.

Map attached

- No draining of wetlands or bottomland hardwood forests for mosquito control. Humans and wildlife need these types of habitats for our fragile ecosystem. Bats on endangered species list that reside in North Alabama depends on mosquitoes for survival.

- I would like to ask TVA to help TVWA, Inc. obtain a habitat area for an experimental wetland and waterfowl proprogation project? TVWA also needs a small area for an office and equipment and storage area. Enclosed is a proposal on a idea site for such project. Marshall County is TVWA's home office, so we would like to locate the main office in this area. Marshall County has neither a wildlife refuge or wildlife management area. TVWA would need a long term lease and a small fee, since TVWA is on a limited operating budget, because TVWA's income is by private donations and fund raising banquets. With TVA cooperation this project could benefit many humans and wild creatures here in the Valley. Small local conservation organizations sometimes benefits the community more than some of the larger national organizations, who have a habit of taking the their donations from this area and sending the revenue to their national headquarters for distribution to other areas.

TVWA is not critical of what has been happening in the past, but would like to input on helping our public servants make prudent decisions in the future. This will ensure the survival of our very fragile ecosystem and help make this region a better place for us human and our wild creatures to reside.

For Waterfowl and Wetlands,

Jerry Davis

Jerry D. Davis, C.E.O.
TVWA, INC.

cc: Mr. Terry Howard, TVA
cc: Mr. David Hayden, ADCNR
cc: Mr. Tuck Stone, Wheeler Wildlife Refuge

- No spraying of milfoil and other aquatic plants on wildlife refuges and wildlife management areas, except as part of wildlife management plan or access channels. Spraying around private peirs,boathouses, and industrial areas should be paid for by the private owners and industry. Spraying in boat channels and around public lake use areas presents no problems and no charges should be levied. No spraying in Round Island and Spring Creek areas. No spraying on the many shallow stump rows on main river. Many of these areas should not be used for boating and skiing areas, for they are too shallow.

- Make the Round Island Creek area a part of Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area. This would perserve a very vital area for many forms of local and migratory fish and wildlife.

- Please do not encroach on existing Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. These area are very important habitat for our dwindling waterfowl and provides many manhours of recreation for the public.

- Set aside TVA land and flood plane areas on the Flint and Paint Rock Rivers to develop into WMA and Wildlife refuges to offset the many other areas that have been developed in the Tennessee Valley Region. These are idea area to develop into dewatering and waterfowl and wildlife proprogation areas such as the Middle Creek, Pennsylvania Wildlife Management project.

- Spring Creek area should remain as undeveloped as possible. This area is also very much used as over-wintering habitat for all forms of local and migratory wildlife.

- The Old Fish Hatchery on Elk River needs to be preserved and enhanced as a fish hatchery and (or) waterfowl and wildlife area. The increasing fishing pressure on the waters of North Alabama is bound to have an impact on the fish population, combine this with pollution and other fish kills, you may see in the near future we will need a restocking program for some species of fish in the TVA reservoirs. Crappie fish seems to already be on a critical over fishing or downward population problem.

  I just visited Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, Flintville fish hatchery and was very impressed at the simplicity and efficiency of this operation. Hopefully one day there will be some private not-for-profit organization, state, or TVA that can join in on a joint venture and activate this project wit the cooperation of TVA.

Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 262 • Guntersville, AL 35976

Jerry Davis

Larry Parker
Executive Treasurer
(205) 582-4212

March 29, 1991

Mr. Spencer D. Boardman:
Wheeler Land Planning Project
TVA
Norris, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Boardman:

Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, (TVWA) Inc. is a not-for-profit organization, consisting of members from many states in the Tennessee Valley Region. Since TVWA's inception in 1987, as made great progress in the enhancement of local waterfowl and their habitat here in Alabama. TVWA has a representative on the Governors' land acquisition committee "FOREVER WILD". This committee will be making proposals for land purchases and enhancement of existing lands in Alabama.

Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc. would like to make some comments on the future use of Wheeler Reservoir . TVWA would first like to THANK TVA for giving TVWA and other lake users a chance to make these comments.

O Limit shoreline development of residential and commercial development to present status, No cutting of trees or destruction of habitat below the TVA water Contour. No seawalls, peir and boathouse permits without some habitat loss fee. (Lakefront houses all along the lake will turn our scenic lake into subdivisions, and this destroys beneficial wildlife habitat and the natural beauty of our lake.) The land below TVA water contour belongs to no private person, so the people that has been using these areas has been getting a free ride.

Note! CALLED RLP to confirm TVA's interest during planning stages 4-1-91

*HAS SOME LAND FOR SALE ADJACENT TO the BLUFF City Boat Ramp.

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

T.R.M. APPROX. 317.8L (9 ACRES FOR SALE)

DATE MARCH 21, 1991 MEETING LOCATION OAK PARK MIDDLE SH.

NAME TROY (first) M (middle initial) MC CUTCHEN (last)

MAILING ADDRESS 115 RIVERMONTE BEND N. APT. NO. ____

CITY Summerville STATE AL. ZIP CODE 35670

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S) (w) ____ (h) ( )

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED (if applicable) ____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP? ____
(letter, newspaper, radio, friend, etc.) (Circle all that apply.)

DO YOU WISH TO REMAIN ON THE MAILING LIST TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE WHEELER LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN?
YES ____ NO ____ Additional Info. DR. DAVENPORT WAS THE LOCAL CITIZEN INSTRAMENTAL IN the implementation OF THE EXISTING RAMP LOCATED AT BLUFF City. *LOCATED ON WH: Wildlife Refg. LAND

Input TVA Workshop 3/20/91 - Huntsville (T

7) Please widen your circulation net for important decisions. (Example: the Marina was built at Honeywell Campground 2 miles East of Guntersville Dam. Many in area opposed, but we did not hear about it because Guntersville notification net did not include Huntsville people who would have stated negative views.) Include groups that would normally have interest - Sierra Club.

8) Do not build any more dams, or succumb to cries for flood control on small tributaries that by nature normally flood over banks each year (Ex. Flint River). [We expect such cries because a golf course may be built along Flint River.]

Thank you for your consideration.

I express the views (officially as President and by consensus of known opinions) of our group of 60 members of North Ala. Birdwatchers' Society.

Thomas A. Bindley, Ph.D.
phone: (0) 205-895-6180
901 Tannahill Drive, Huntsville, AL 35802

Huntsville, March 20, 1991

Wheeler Reservoir TVA Public Workshop:

My input to TVA "Future Directions"

1) Keep Wheeler Natl Wildlife Refuge and all Tenn + Ala state game refuges and management areas in natural state (except to maintain);

2) Keep as much of riverside in trees and forests as possible along all banks and streams.

3) Minimize urban type buildings, roads, infrastructure on TVA lands.

4) Stop use of pesticides (esp any with 245-T or 245D or dioxin, etc.) on edges and in waters.

5) Do not issue permits for woodchip plants or major sawmills (that will lead to clearcutting).

6) Do not allow clearcutting of forests of TVA land.

see p 2

PROPOSED STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT FOR HIGHWAY 31 SOUTH ROADSIDE PARK
BY ATHENS STATE COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

	Action	Date	Cost	Proposed Funding Source
Phase I				
Research site for faculty/ students at Athens State College	Secure & clean up of property Fencing, landscaping; area made serviceable	Immediately	$ 4,000	Prison labor at no cost/ donated landscaping fencing donated
Phase II				
Research and living laboratories for Calhoun and ASC students. Some tours led by faculty.	Building & pavillions On-site remodeled	1990-91	$30,000	Donations *
Phase III				
Field trips for K-12, colleges, & environmental groups.	Construction of boardwalk. Outfit pavillions with environmental exhibits. Establish office on-site to give presence at site during school hours.	1991-92	$30,000	Donations *
Phase IV				
Full-time research center Course site for new college courses such as ichthyology, herpetology, ornithology, & mammology.	Employ staff to give full-time presence, coordinate visiting groups. Provide in-service workshops for area K-12 teachers.	1992-93-Forward	$30,000 per year	Donations *

*It is felt that funding can be secured through submitting proposals to companies interested in environmental management, i.e., Waste Away, Monsanto, Amoco Chemicals, etc. Also, governmental agencies such as the National Science Foundation, Department of the Interior, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and others will be approached.

ATHENS (CLEMENTS)
GROUP 1
QUESTION 2

MARCH 19, 1991

A PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HIGHWAY 31 SOUTH ROADSIDE PARK AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS RESEARCH CENTER/BIOLOGY FIELD STATION.

Recently, the State of Alabama Highway Department returned ownership of approximately eight acres of land formerly comprising a roadside park on U.S. Highway 31, South, between Athens and Decatur, to the Tennessee Valley Authority. This abandoned park has been used by the Highway Department as a storage area for gravel and asphalt. The appearance of this park is an embarrassment to the Athens-Decatur community. A proposal by the City of Athens and Limestone County to develop the abandoned park as a recreation area has been abandoned and TVA officials have indicated they would be willing to work with the College in developing this area.

Athens State College would, therefore, like to propose that the property be developed as an Environmental Awareness Center to be managed under auspice of the Athens State College Department of Biology. Initially, the Center would concentrate research effort on limestone spring habitat in North Alabama and South-Central Tennessee which is, at this time, poorly understood and fast disappearing. In fact, the two springs adjacent to the park are ideally representative limestone springs, the physicochemical, vegetational and faunal characteristics of which need to be researched. In that these springs are now home to two endangered/threatened fish, the spring pygmy sunfish and the Tuscumbia darter, interest in the springs on the part of the Department of the Interior, TVA, and the State of Alabama is established. However, at present a research effort concentrating on the ecology of these or other such springs has not been undertaken.

It is envisioned that the Center would contribute to public awareness of environmental problems; e.g., accommodate small groups of elementary, high school, and college age students for the purpose of providing them with information on the conservation status of endangered/threatened plant and animal species native to the North Alabama-South Central Tennessee region. Seminars or forums for the purpose of presenting information and/or sharing views regarding particular environmental issues might also be developed.

The College would like to develop the project in phases as funding permits. The following developmental stages are proposed. The College is committed to working with area business and industry as well as governmental agencies to secure funding for the advanced stages of this project.

19 MARCH 1991

WHAT SHOULD THE SHORELINE LOOK LIKE IN 10 YEARS

1. First, I hope that it doesn't change much!

2. Since TVA owns much of the waterfrontage because of the ownership to the 560 foot elevation, there is a lot of land that can be used by the public for picnics and for hunting and fishing. These are family type activities that should be preserved for our children and grandchildren. That is a very important use which will become even more important as the industrial development of the Tennessee Valley continues over the next century. This is a special heritage that we can leave. Maybe it would be appropriate to transfer ownership into the National Park System if they can preserve what we have.

3. Industrial development will surely put pressure on the politicians to allow more use of our reservoir. We must put very tight restrictions on whatever development that is allowed so we control the quality of the water and air that we have. We should also try to keep the industrial development close to the areas which are now industrial.

4. We should make our top priority the cleanliness and beauty of Wheeler Reservoir.

John Dumbacher
6819 Jones Valley Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

MARCH 19, 1991

CHANGES THAT WOULD IMPROVE WHEELER RESERVOIR

1. The TVA operating schedule for the water levels should be published from time to time. It would be very helpful to property owners to know when the lake level is going to be low in the early spring so that they could schedule the maintenance and construction that they need to perform each year.

2. It would be helpful if TVA would schedule a low low level every spring for maintenance work that would last about 7 to 10 days. Take the level down to the lowest that will permit navigation and let us all know when you are going to do it. Let it be part of the annual operating plan.

3. TVA could plan some maintenance of their own during this low time. There are often trees that get caught and become hazards to navigation because they don't get picked up from otherwise wide open parts of the Reservoir. These are hazards at night.

4. We need to perform some public relations with regard to people throwing their trash and drink cans out of their boats on the reservoir. We should do all that we can to preserve the beauty of the reservoir.

John Dumbacher

John Dumbacher
6819 Jones Valley Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

MARCH 19, 1991

WHAT DO I VALUE ABOUT WHEELER RESERVOIR

I have always felt that the water quality in Wheeler Reservoir was pretty good. I am most anxious that it always remain high for my family to use as a recreational facility.

I like the fact that the reservoir is generally very wide and not very densely populated. The population centers are widely separated and so there are many areas of the reservoir where the number of boats and people are quiet and peaceful.

There has not been much growth of the hydrilla and other plant life which is common at Guntersville.

The industrial areas are fairly well concentrated in specific parts of the lake. The industrial development has not been interspersed with the residential and recreational areas.

I have been a property owner on the reservoir for more than 24 years and the beauty of the large lake has been a very important part of my life and that of my family. I am thankful every day that I am on the lake that it is so beautiful and so peaceful. I would hope that this beauty and cleanliness never changes. I hope that TVA will never let the industrial uses of the reservoir pollute the waters or the air at Wheeler Reservoir.

John Dumbacher

John Dumbacher
6819 Jones Valley Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

materials be given in conjunction with a fee-based permit system which would register the collector with TVA and oblige him/her to divulge the areas being collected, the types of materials being found, and to agree to make all materials found available for professional study at any time. Making surface collection a licensed obligation for control purposes would provide law enforcement individuals a tool to decide whether a person or persons are operating within the framework of the Law. It would also be something that must be earned and can be lost.

D. Establish a depository for information and materials of an archaeological nature in each basin. Additionally, establish and maintain a record of each basin's amateur collectors and the areas where they are active. When researchers require information on the quantity and type of archaeological materials in any particular area, it can rapidly be assembled for study. Encourage that well documented artifact collections be donated to TVA for use in the basin museums. There are hundreds of large artifact collections which currently reside in boxes and can be put to good educational use if there were provisions to do so.

I apologize for this lengthy review of my feelings regarding TVA land use and the heavy focus I have placed on the issues surrounding our archaeological heritage. However, we cannot close our eyes to this enormous prehistoric resource. Without a doubt, The Tennessee River Valley is one of the richest archaeological areas in the United States. This resource is being severely impacted by the action of the artificially elevated water levels of the Tennessee River. The least we can do is recognize that this is happening and act responsibly to protect and preserve whatever is possible.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Gustafson

Rules and Regulations, Federal Register, Vol.49, No. 4, Page 1018, Col. 1, as follow:

> "Many commentors expressed concern that the proposed definition would not allow dislocated material remains, which had lost archaeological interest for reason of their dislocation, to be collected by hobbyists. This concern was directed primarily to items eroded from archaeological sites along the shores of artificial lakes and redeposited sufficiently out of context so as to remove their information potential. Lakes specifically mentioned were those resulting from projects of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Commentors pointed out that collection of these remains may contribute more to their preservation than allowing them to be further dislocated due to human-caused or natural disturbance. In recognition of the fact that material remains can, in certain circumstances, lose their archaeological interest and that their collection by the public under these circumstances might not be adverse to the purposes of the Act, a new paragraph (a)(5) was added to the definition of "archaeological resource." This new provision is based on the premise that if the circumstances clearly warrant, the protected status of the remains should be removed and the public so informed."

It is important that TVA move to advise the public that surface collecting of dislocated archaeological resources is permitted and, in fact, encouraged. The current situation has three scenarios operating.

> (1) Surface materials are washed away and lost forever.
>
> (2) Surface materials are found and retained by individuals interested in preservation, but who are unable to report or discuss them for fear of prosecution.
>
> (3) Surface materials are found and sold for high profit by those who have no concerns at all about recording the area archaeological heritage.

Losses due to water induced dislocation cannot be stopped without returning the Tennessee River to its original (pre-1930's) water level. TVA can move to encourage that a sizeable percentage of dislocated materials are reported and available to professionals by disposing of the current illegal interpretation of surface collecting. In keeping with the intent of ARPA, it is recommended that the permission to surface collect dislocated

would receive the full support of the State Historical and Archaeological Societies and hundreds of local residents in each basin could be the source of unlimited quantities of display materials and information.

III. Move aggressively toward programs which would preserve and protect the archaeological heritage on all TVA lands. Protection of such history is required under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA) and Rules and Regulations promulgated in 1984. There seems to be only token application of this Law by TVA at the present time. Proper and complete implementation of ARPA regulations would include:

A. Protection of all TVA land areas which are known to contain archaeological resources until they can be properly studied and reported on by professionals. Protection would require that traditional farming practices which disturb the site stratigraphy, eg. plowing, must be stopped and the areas allowed to become overgrown until formally studied and released to farming. These overgrown land areas would prevent further losses of archaeological resources while promoting wildlife development and eventually providing excellent areas for hunters.

B. Establish a formal law enforcement staff who can impose ARPA regulations on individuals and/or companies found to be destroying archaeological resources. TVA should encourage public participation and help in the detection and reporting of incidents of suspected site destruction. Indiscriminate excavation of archaeological sites by thoughtless and profit seeking amateurs can and must be stopped if TVA views this prehistoric heritage as important and the Law valid.

C. Encourage practices which would help to insure public records and preservation of archaeological resources. Those artifacts which are located on the surface of TVA lands due to erosion and/or wave action on draw-down shore lines are currently being lost forever. Surface collection by legitimate amateur archaeologists has been sharply reduced due to current interpretations of ARAP. Conversely, the value of these artifacts to traders and merchants has sharply increased. For that reason, the collection of artifacts by profit seekers has soared. Where there was little to profit from pre-1980, there is now a substantial and profitable business. The net effect is that ARPA has <u>accelerated</u> the permanent loss of archaeological resources throughout the country.

The practice of surface collecting for the purpose of preservation is <u>recommended</u> under certain conditions in the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979,

ATHENS (CLEMENTS)
GROUP 1
QUESTION 2
MARCH 19, 1991

127 Rivermont Bend S.
Route 1
Somerville, AL 35670

March 18, 1991

To: Mr. Spencer Boardman
Tennessee Valley Authority
Land Management Committee

Re: Request for public recommendations on TVA land utilization.
The Decatur Daily, March 3, 1991.

I have some general land utilization suggestions which could apply to one or more of the parcels in question and certainly would apply to all areas currently administered by TVA. I have prepared these in written form as they are multifaceted and may deserve further consideration or require subsequent clarification.

The Tennessee Valley Authority should ---

I. Encourage the development of programs which would make TVA lands more accessible to the public. TVA should move against land use which prevents or limits public access. An unfortunate case in point is the practice by the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge near Decatur. During winter months, while the ducks and geese are in residence, gates for roads serving many Refuge areas are locked and posted against trespass. This prevents public access to backwater boat launching facilities which serve good fishing areas. It also prevents easy access to good wildlife observation areas. The practice of locking gates does nothing to influence duck or geese decisions on whether to visit or not visit the Refuge. It serves only to irritate a few local residents who would like to enjoy these areas twelve months a year.

II. Develop programs and practices which would, over a period of time, result in small museums or centralized meeting and display facilities for each reservoir. These could provide a focal point for preservation, observation, and study of the value and types of natural and man-made resources in that area. They could be centers for the study and teaching of area archaeology, history, and wildlife. They could serve to advertise current business services and promote new business opportunities. These centers would provide a unique way to enlighten current and future residents and businesses to the complete range of opportunities in the area. At the same time, they would facilitate a program to organize and retain under one roof the history of each basin. Such a program

CC: Tennessee Valley Authority
Division of Reservoir Properties
601 First Federal Building
Florence, Alabama 35630

US Dept. of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1643
Decatur, Alabama 35602

developed by private developers on a piece-meal basis and are inadquate for the potential growth of the area. None of the areas are are served by sewage facilities which is essential to the growth and development of any area. City water was not available until last year and electricity was provided by a COOP until 1972. This lack of facilities or slow extension thereof to the southeast on the part of the city, has been caused primarily by the wildlife facilities locate in the back door of Decatur, which did not permit its growth to the southeast and the logical extension of its utilities to the area.

Decatur will ultimately need a link with U. S. Interstate I-65 to the east of Decatur. In order to accomplish this, action should be taken now to obtain it. This spur sbould logically cross wildlife property and terminate in the Pointe Mallard area in East Decatur. If this becomes a reality its construction will be severely hindered because of the Wildlife Service policies pertaining to construction on wildlife properties, if the problems associated with the construction of the I-65 bridge across the Tennessee River just east of Decatur can be used as criteria for this project.

Monies from the sale of the land recommended above would enable the Wildlife Service to purchase three to five acres of contiguous land for each acre sold.

This proposal, if adopted, would permit:

a. Decatur to grow to the southeast and consequently extend its utilities to the undeveloped area and to the existing populated areas.

b. It would provide sites for facilities needed by Decatur in the future and waterfront property for its residents.

c. It would speed the construction of an interstate spur to Decatur.

d. Last, but not least in importance, it would allow the Wildlife Service to obtain a greater number of acres which would permit expansion of its services to our wildlife friends and at the same time make its service more compatable with the surrounding area and adjacent activities.

Please give this proposal sincere and careful consideration. I consider it valid, feasible and in the best interest of this area and the Wildlif Service.

Sincerely,

Eldridge H. Cockrell

Eldridge H. Cockrell, GRI
EC/sw

COCKRELL Realty Company

ELDRIDGE H. COCKRELL, G.R.I.
Office: 355-6115
Residence: 350-0751

1316 Stratford Rd. S.E.
Decatur, Alabama 35601

August 3, 1981

United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
17 Executive Park Drive N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

The Directors
Tennessee Valley Authority
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401

Gentlemen:

I have a proposal for your consideration. I propose that you dispose of all your land southeast of Decatur, Alabama located south of the Tennessee River and west of Interstate Highway I-65.

I recommend that the land area where the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Headquarters is located be offered to the city of Decatur for interim use as a park but ultimately for use as a site for a medical center to include hospital, offices for medical personnel, convalescent facility, and rest homes and the land surrounded by water lying south of Alabama Highway 67 for use ultimately as a civic center, recreation parks and possibly schools elementary through high school. The remainder of the land should be offered to the public for residenti use.

The Wildlife Refuge is not compatable with a populated area and has hindered the logical and orderly growth of Decatur to the southeast. In addition Decatur, a city of 42,000 people located on the banks of the beautiful Tennessee River, does not have any residential waterfront property. Local residents have been attempting to obtain waterfront residential property for years but without success. All of the waterfront property on both sides of the river east of Decatur is wildlife property. Within the city, it is all occupied by industry, with minor exceptions. West of Decatur, all waterfront property is controlled by the Tennessee Valley Authority or the Joe Wheeler Estate.

Decatur residential growth is primarily to the southwest because of the wildlife property adjacent to and southest of the city. Prime residential areas have been developed across the wildlife area to the southeast, however the development of essential utilities have been

COCKRELL Realty Company

ELDRIDGE H. COCKRELL, G.R.I.
Office: 355-6115
Residence: 350-0751

1316 Stratford Rd. S.E.
Decatur, Alabama 35601

SENT TO SELECT LOCAL CITIZENS DURING DECEMBER OF 1981

Dear

Your attention is invited to the enclosed letter to the U S Dept. of Interior Wildlife Service and the replies thereto. The newspaper article by Regina Wright which appeared on the front page of the Decatur Daily December 6, 1981, is also enclosed.

There is no intent on my part to attempt to eliminate or reduce wildlife activity in the Decatur area. Wildlife Service can and should expand its service. This can be accomplished by implementing my recommendation.

I sincerely believe that my recommendation, if adopted, would be good for Decatur and its residents. I would appreciate your support by helping me sell this idea.

Sincerely,

Eldridge H. Cockrell

Eldridge H. Cockrell

COCKRELL Realty Company

ELDRIDGE H. COCKRELL, G.R.I.
Office: 355-6115
Residence: 350-0751

1316 Stratford Rd. S.E.
Decatur, Alabama 35601

This letter was mailed to a limited number of individuals in the spring of 1985 along with my letter of August 3, 1981 to the United States Department of Interior and the newspaper article by Regina Wright.

Dear

Your attention is invited to the enclosed letter to the U. S. Department of Interior, Wildlife Service and the replies thereto. The newspaper article by Regina Wright which appeared on the front page of the Decatur Daily on December 6, 1981, is also enclosed.

In view of recent developments in Decatur and the general area, plus the opening of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, Decatur has the potential of becoming one of the fastest growing areas in the south, perhaps the nation. It is imperative that we extend our city limits and utilize land that is already within our city limits more efficiently. Obviously this is only one of many things that should be done. I would like to expand the area mentioned in the attached letter to include all land above the flood plane within the wildlife refuge lying west of I-65. Land below the flood plane could still be utilized by wildlife. Covenants could be placed on the land above the flood plane to protect our wildlife friends.

There is no intent on my part to attempt to eliminate or reduce wildlife activity in the Decatur area. Wildlife Service can and should expand its service. This can be accomplished by implementing my recommendation.

I sincerely believe that my recommendation, if adopted, would be good for Decatur, its residents, and the Wildlife Service. I would appreciate your support by helping me sell this idea.

Sincerely,

Eldridge H. Cockrell

Eldridge H. Cockrell, G.R.I.

bk

Copy: To interested parties.

COCKRELL Realty, Inc.

316 Stratford Road, S.E. • Decatur, Alabama 35601

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES
&
UNDEVELOPED LAND

Eldridge H. Cockrell, GRI
Edward C. Clowes
Braxton Perrin
J. Frank Keown

Telephone
Office (205) 355-6115
Res.: (205) 350-0751
Res.: (205) 350-0759
Res.: (205) 353-5112
Res.: (205) 353-8526

March 18, 1991

Attn: Mr. Boardman
Tennessee Valley Authority
Property Management and Administration
NRB 1A-N
400 W. Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902-9924

Dear Mr. Boardman:

Reference: Use of TVA held land in the vicinity of Decatur, Alabama

My opinion as to the use of TVA land is documented in the enclosed letters and newspaper article.

Decatur has extended its utilities to serve the area across the U.S. Wildlife area to the southeast. This makes it possible to utilize land that heretofore could not be utilized for residential or other uses because of the lack of the utilities in the past, especially sewerage. This also applies to other areas in Morgan and Limestone Counties.

I still recommend that all TVA land lying above the flood plain within five (5) miles of the city limits of Decatur, in all directions, be made available for other uses primarily residential, recreation and commercial.

I contend, as stated in the attached letters, that for every acre sold that three (3) acres could be purchased elsewhere for wildlife or other uses. By so doing, this would enable U.S. Wildlife to expand its services for our wildlife friends and would free much needed land near Decatur for other uses.

Sincerely,

Eldridge H. Cockrell

Eldridge H. Cockrell, GRI

Enclosures: Six (6) letters and a newspaper article pertaining to the above subject

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendix A: Public Participation

Summary of Public Comment and TVA Response to Draft Plan

Section VI

Summary of Public Comment and TVA Response to Draft Plan

Introduction

The first draft of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan was distributed to 46 TVA associates for internal review in April 1993. A revised draft was then sent to over 650 persons, agencies, and organizations for review and comment in November 1993. Three public meetings were held beginning in late November 1993 to accept oral and written comments on the draft plan.

A summary of the public comment from this period and TVA's responses was published in May 1995 and mailed to all participants. The summary includes the public meeting invitation letter; a summary of issues and concerns relating to the Wheeler Draft Plan; public comments and TVA responses; and written public comments.

Section VI includes:

- Transmittal memo for internal review and comment of the draft plan
- The published document *Summary of Public Comment and TVA Response*

INTERNAL DRAFT PLAN REVIEW

TRANSMITTAL MEMO

(Sent to 46 TVA associates)

April 9, 1993

Those listed

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN - FIRST DRAFT - INTERNAL REVIEW

Attached for your review is the first draft of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. The plan will be revised following TVA review and released for public comment by May 1993. To meet this schedule, we need to receive all TVA comments no later than April 30. The information contained in the draft should not be discussed outside TVA prior to release of the revised draft for public review.

I am sending copies of the draft to managers and staff members with whom the Wheeler Planning Team has actively participated during the planning process. If you have any questions or need additional copies, please contact Connie Hill at Norris extension 1549 or my office at extension 1550.

Spencer Boardman

Spencer D. Boardman
Project Leader
Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning
NRB 1A-N

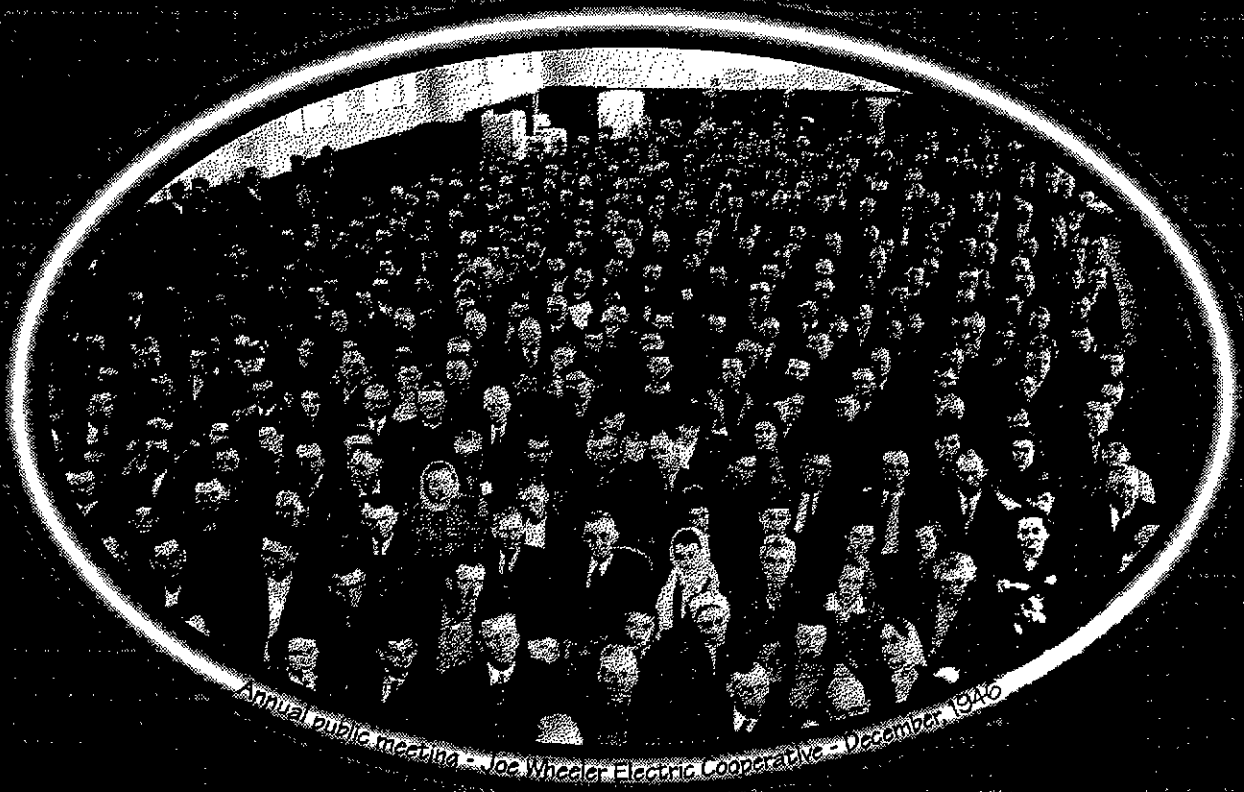
J. Scott Atkins, OSA 1A-M
Carol E. Ayers, AMS 1A-HNT
Judith P. Bartlow, NRB 2B-N
Craig W. Beasley, PAB 1A-BFN
Lee D. Boggs III, EB 4A-K
Fred S. Bollin, FOR 2C-N
Carline C. Bryant, EB 4A-K
Charles D. Buffington, WT 9D-K
Lawrence L. Calvert, FOR 3A-N
Larry R. Clark, HB 2A-C
George G. Conner, Jr., EB 4A-K
Joseph C. Cooney, OSA 1B-M
Dennis T. Curtin, FOR 2C-N
Clay S. Davis, Jr., ET 10H-K
Joseph P. Fehring, HB 2C-C

Dale K. Fowler, WT 8B-K
J. Bennett Graham, NRB 2C-N
Hugh R. Granade, OCH 2B-K
Russell Harris III, NRB 1A-N
Thomas M. Hunter, OCH 1B-K
Herbert C. Jones III, HB 2C-C
J. Ralph Jordan, Jr., NRB 2B-N
Jon M. Loney, OCH 1E-K
Gregory W. Lowe, EB 1A-K
Robert A. Marker, NRB 2A-N
Tere C. McDonough, NRB 1A-N
Roger A. Milstead, EB 1A-K
Philip J. Mummert, OCH 1E-K
M. Ted Nelson, EB 4A-K
Charles P. Nicholson, NRB 2B-N
Norris A. Nielsen, CEB 2A-M
Ronald W. Pasch, HB 2C-C
Laurie S. Pearl, NRB 2A-N
Samuel C. Perry, NRB 2A-N
Richard L. Pflueger, OSA 1A-M
Maxwell D. Ramsey, NRB 2C-N
William H. Redmond, NRB 2B-N
Sidney D. Reynolds, SP 5E-C
E. Bruce Rowland, NRB 1B-N
Porter L. Russ, NFE 2M-M
M. Paul Schmierbach, WT 8B-K
Gregory R. Signer, ET 10H-K
Michael C. Smith, OCH 2B-K
William E. Smith, OSA 1A-M
Barry S. Stalcup, OSA 1B-M
Charles R. Tichy, NRB 2C-N

SDB:CJH
Attachment
cc: Files, LR, FOR 1A-N

RLP-0379L

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND TVA RESPONSES



Annual public meeting - Joe Wheeler Electric Cooperative - December 1946

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Summary Of Public Comment And TVA Responses

Wheeler Reservoir

Summary of Public Comment On Draft Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan

And

TVA Responses

TVA Reservoir Lands Planning
May 1995

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Introduction

On November 1, 1993, TVA distributed the draft Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan to more than 650 persons, agencies and organizations for review. The draft document, designed to guide use of TVA land over the next 10 years, was the result of public workshops, numerous meetings, and several months of intensive study.

The public comment period extended through December 12, 1993, and TVA hosted three public review meetings to solicit the public's views on the draft plan. The team conducted meetings Tuesday, November 30, in Athens, Alabama; Wednesday, December 1, in Huntsville, Alabama; and Thursday, December 2, in Decatur, Alabama.

TVA carefully analyzed and considered each comment, oral and written, to develop the final Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. TVA responded to many of the comments individually. For the purposes of this document, however, the agency grouped the comments into 31 separate issues, and responses are provided here on an issue-by-issue basis. A copy of the written comments is included in the back of this document. A written transcript of the oral comments is available by calling 1-800-TVA-LAND.

TVA made changes in some tract descriptions as a result of public participation. Among those were:

Tract Nos. 28 & 32 — The draft plan grandfathered existing structures and proposed to close consideration of new private water use facility requests. The final plan allows for such facilities with more stringent guidelines for development per the February 3, 1994, meeting at Joe Wheeler State Park.

Tract Nos. 134 & 135 — The draft proposed to dispose of these two tracts to remove a number of violations and encroachments and to dispose of small parcels of land which offer little public value. The final plan proposes to allow each adjoining property owner to secure a legal access across TVA prior to selling at public auction Tract 135. If TVA and the property owner can successfully relocate a driveway and other encroachments, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will consider accepting Tract 134 to keep the land in the public domain.

Tract No. 202 — The draft plan recommended sale, but the public encouraged TVA to reevaluate the tract. Based on the public comment and a site visit, the final plan proposed keeping the tract in TVA ownership.

Public Meeting Invitation Letter

Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris, Tennessee 37828

November 1, 1993

Dear Citizen:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the draft Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan and land allocation maps. We welcome your comments about the plan or suggestions for changes. We invite you and encourage others to attend one of the public review meetings to be held in your area at the following locations.

1) Tuesday, November 30, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Clements High School cafeteria, Athens, Alabama, via U.S. Highway 72 and Ezell Road.

2) Wednesday, December 1, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Huntsville High School library, Huntsville, Alabama, via Bob Wallace Avenue.

3) Thursday, December 2, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Oak Park Middle School auditorium, Decatur, Alabama, via 6th Avenue and 8th Street.

The meetings will be at the same schools where the public workshops were held. Maps to the schools are enclosed.

The format for these meetings will provide everyone the opportunity to express their concerns. You will be asked to fill out a registration card prior to the meeting indicating your interest to comment. If you do not wish to make an oral comment, written comments will also be excepted at the registration desk. After a brief overview presentation of the draft plan, speakers will be heard one at a time in the order in which they registered. The intent of this meeting is <u>not to debate issues</u>, but to give everyone the opportunity to express any concerns they may have. However, depending on the number of those who have comments, it may be necessary to limit the time allowed for each speaker (3 to 5 minutes). All comments will be tape recorded.

If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, you may send your written comments to me at the following address: Tennessee Valley Authority, Reservoir Land Management, Natural Resources Building, Norris, Tennessee 37828. The public review period will remain open and comments will be received through December 12.

Following the close of the review period, TVA will compile all comments and provide responses to citizen questions and concerns. The Wheeler planning team will review the comments and, if necessary, recommend appropriate revisions to the draft plan. We will send a summary of the public comments received, TVA responses, and proposed changes to the plan to everyone who provides comments, attends the public review meetings, or who has indicated their desire to remain on the Wheeler mailing list. To date, this list exceeds 650 active participants.

Thank you for your continued interest and participation in the Wheeler Reservoir planning process.

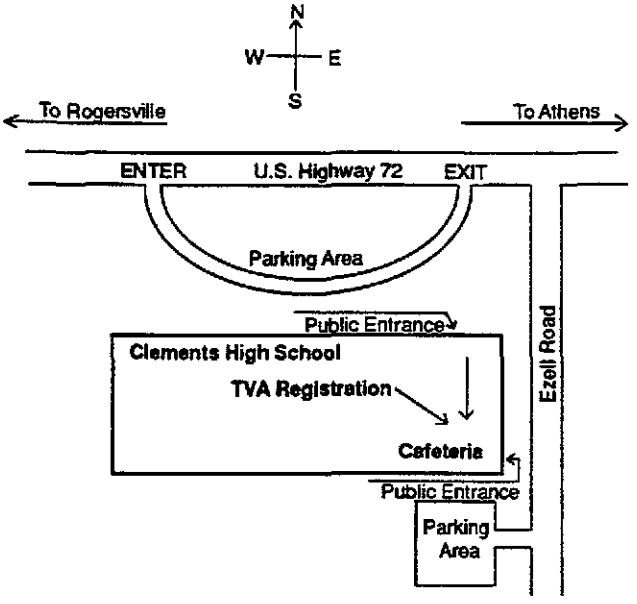
Sincerely,

Spencer Boardman

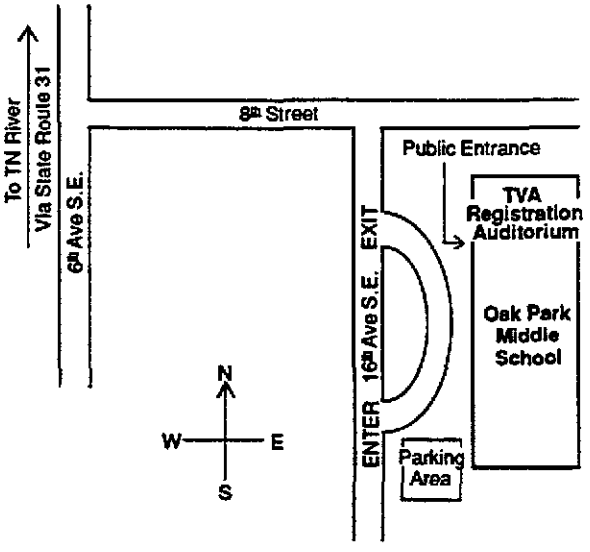
Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader
Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning
Reservoir Land Management

Enclosure

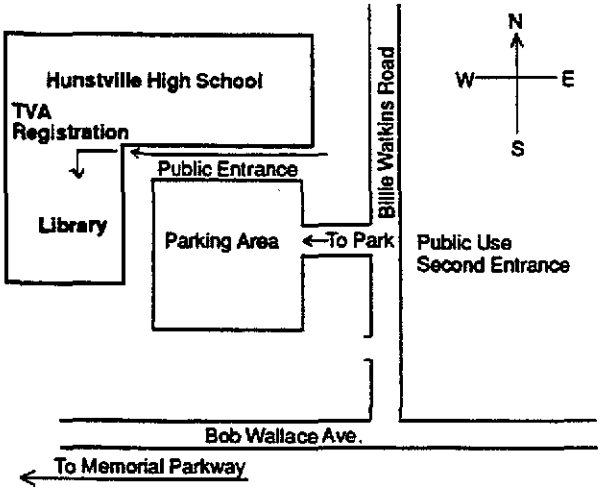
CLEMENTS PUBLIC WORKSHOP



DECATUR PUBLIC WORKSHOP



HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC WORKSHOP



Summary of Issues/Concerns Relating to the Wheeler Draft Plan

Summary Of Issues/Concerns Relating to the Wheeler Draft Plan

1. Issue: Plan's Treatment of Hampton Campsite and Holland Lakeview Shores Subdivision; granting of deeded rights of ingress and egress; Permit conditions.
   Herman Swanner - oral: 11/30/93
   Kathy Herma - oral: 11/30/93
   Barbara Laubenthal - oral: 11/30/93; written: 11/30/93
   Bill Davis - oral: 11/30/93
   Ann Heller - oral: 11/30/93, 12/1/93; written: 11/30/93, 12/2/93
   Jeff Heller - oral: 11/30/93; written: 11/30/93
   Peggy Nelson - oral: 11/30/93
   Rolland Nelson - oral: 11/30/93
   Susan Burroughs - oral: 11/30/93, 12/1/93; written: 12/2/93
   Penny Cash - oral: 11/30/93, 12/1/93; written: 12/2/93
   Gwen Christopher - oral: 11/30/93
   Carole Heery - oral: 11/30/93
   James Hughes - oral: 11/30/93; written: 11/30/93
   Martha Camp - oral: 11/30/93
   Anthony DiCerbo - oral: 12/1/93
   W. R. Scogin - written: 12/6/93
   James D. Shown - written: 12/6/93

2. Issue: Extend review date of the plan.
   Susan Burroughs - oral: 11/30/93
   Ann Heller - oral: 12/2/93

3. Issue: Ramp in Twindale Subdivision; repair, improve, maintain.
   Bob Blanks - oral: 11/30/93

4. Issue: Water drawdown on Wheeler; slues get clogged.
   Jerry Tolbert - oral: 11/30/93
   Joann Christopher - oral: 11/30/93
   W. R. Scogin - written: 12/6/93

5. Issue: Industry on the Elk River; inconsistency on visual management vs. industrial development; Tracts 26 & 22; Wheeler grainery.
   Billy Christopher - oral: 11/30/93
   Joann Christopher - oral: 11/30/93
   Ray Holder - oral: 12/1/93
   Susan Burroughs - oral: 11/30/93, 12/1/93; written: 11/30/93
   Barbara Laubenthal - oral: 11/30/93; written: 11/30/93
   Ann Heller - oral: 12/1/93; written: 12/2/93
   Penny Cash - oral: 12/1/93; written: 11/30/93
   Carole Heery - oral: 11/30/93
   Scott Marshall - oral: 11/30/93
   W. R. Scogin - written: 12/6/93

Ada Cook - written: 12/10/93
H. H. Laubenthal - written: 12/4/93
Robert Gray - written: 12/7/93
Delores Howard - written: 12/10/93
A. V. Nygren - written: 12/6/93
Lynn Leach - written: 12/9/93
Tom Thrasher - written: 12/13/93
Laudrey White - written: 12/10/93
Forrest Suns - written: 12/10/93
Helen Suns - written: 12/10/93
William Cook - written: 12/8/93
Erwin Johnson, Jr. - written: 12/8/93
Charles E. Shaver, Jr. - written: 12/14/93
James E. Milton, Jr. - written: 12/21/93
Carol C. Milton - written: 12/21/93

6. Issue: Round Island, dangerous without dock.
Scott Marshall - oral: 11/30/93

7. Issue: Tract 136; Retain, do not sell.
Gladys Ferguson - oral: 11/30/93
Joseph Marsh, Jr. - written: 11/29/93, 1/10/94
Jim Newman - written: 11/29/93

8. Issue: Education/Communication of TVA Land Rights; Explanation of types of TVA land.
Bill Davis - oral: 11/30/93
Martha Camp - oral: 11/30/93
Jerry Tolbert - oral: 11/30/93
Penley Rees - oral: 11/30/93
Joann Christopher - oral: 11/30/93
Scott Marshall - oral: 11/30/93
Penny Cash - oral: 11/30/93; written: 12/2/93
Susan Burroughs - oral: 11/30/93; written: 12/2/93
Jeff Heller - oral: 11/30/93; written: 11/30/93
Pembroke Rees - oral: 11/30/93

9. Issue: Faulty Analyzation of Data from Public Workshops.
Penny Cash - oral: 11/30/93, 12/1/93

10. Issue: TVA's Forestry Plans as outlined in the Wheeler Plan.
Charles Hubbert - oral: 12/1/93; written: 12/2/93
Cliff Griggs - oral: 12/1/93
Delores Howard - written: 12/10/93
Mrs. Terrell Prewitt - written: 12/4/93
Lynn Leach - written: 12/9/93

11. Issue: Should be industrialization on Wheeler Reservoir; creation of jobs.
Dean Matthews - oral: 12/1/93; written: 11/29/93
Dewey Rhodes - oral: 12/1/93

12. Issue: Freeman Acres Subdivision.
Gayno McKelvey - oral: 12/2/93
Wayne Gentry - oral: 12/2/93; written: 12/10/93
Greg Gentry - oral: 12/2/93; written: 12/10/93
Chris James - oral: 12/2/93
J. R. Reid - written: 12/9/93
James Bendall - written: 12/11/93
Bobby Terry - written: 12/10/93

13. Issue: Section 31; Purchase TVA property by private individual.
Freddie Thomas - oral: 12/2/93

14. Issue: Recommendation to surplus TVA property.
Chris James - oral: 12/2/93
Cliff Griggs - oral: 12/1/93

15. Issue: TVA Abandonment of rights on Tracts 28 and 32.
Barbara Laubenthal - oral: 11/30/93; written: 11/30/93
Penny Cash - oral: 11/30/93
William Evans - oral: 11/30/93; written: 12/4/93
Earl Lamon - oral: 12/2/93
W. R. Scogin - written: 12/6/93
Donald Zeek - written: 12/1/93
Dustin Newton - written: 12/4/93
Lewis Spiegel - written: 12/4/93
Arell Spiegel - written: 12/4/93
James Lee - written: 12/4/93
Ann Lee - written: 12/4/93
Evelyn Evans - written: 12/4/93
Edna Grider - written: 12/4/93
William Grider - written: 12/4/93

16. Issue: Erosion problem on Tract 28.
Peggy Nelson - oral: 11/30/93

17. Issue: Log and debris problems on Elk River.
Peggy Nelson - oral: 11/30/93
Jerry Tolbert - oral: 11/30/93
Joann Christopher - oral: 11/30/93
W. R. Scogin - written: 12/6/93
Edward Mills - written: 12/8/93
Forrest Suns - written: 12/10/93
Helen Suns - written: 12/10/93
Erwin Johnson, Jr. - written: 12/8/93

18. Issue: Habitat Enhancement; endangered species; lack of habitat protection areas.
Gwen Christopher - oral: 11/30/93
Ann Heller - oral: 12/1/93
Mrs. Terrell Prewitt - written: 12/4/93

19. Issue: Effluent levels at sewage plants - Elk River.
Jerry Tolbert - oral: 11/30/93

20. Issue: Watermilfoil Control.
Scott Marshall - oral: 11/30/93

21. Issue: Water Quality Monitoring; agricultural runoff; non-point pollution.
Ronnie Haraway - written: 11/22/93
Leroy Heston - written: 12/1/93

22. Issue: No new commercial recreation.
Delores Howard - written: 12/10/93
Leroy Heston - written: 12/1/93

23. Issue: No new private use permits.
Delores Howard - written: 12/10/93

24. Issue: Rope off swimming areas.
Mrs. Terrell Prewitt - written: 12/4/93

25. Issue: Reducing/eliminating private access on TVA land.
Scott Marshall - oral: 11/30/93
James D. Shown - written: 11/30/93
Roy Elkins - written: 12/7/93
W. R. Scogin - written: 12/6/93
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton Cash - written: 12/9/93
Tom Thrasher - written: 12/13/93
Erwin Johnson, Jr. - written: 12/8/93
Tulon C. McRight - written: 12/4/93
Charles E. Shaver, Jr. - written: 12/14/93
Edward Mills - written: 12/8/93
James E. Milton, Jr. - written: 12/21/93
Carol C. Milton - written: 12/21/93

26. Issue: Upgrade ramps at Spring Creek and Swope Road.
Bobby Terry - written: 12/10/93

27. Issue: Depth of channel in Anderson Creek.
Forrest Suns - written: 12/10/93
Helen Suns - written: 12/10/93
Erwin Johnson, Jr. - written: 12/8/93
Edward Mills - written: 12/8/93

28. Issue: Specific industrial development corrections.
Dean Matthews - written: 11/29/93

29. Issue: Change Tract Allocation on Tract 13 to Economic Development.
Michael Roberts - written: 12/17/93

30. Issue: Second Creek silt build-up, shallow depth.
Ronnie Haraway - written: 11/22/93

31. Issue: Limit number of wet boat storage units, size limits on pleasure boats.
Leroy Heston - written: 12/1/93

SUMMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON WHEELER LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. Comment: Protection of cultural resources.
Alabama Historical Commission - written: 11/16/93

2. Comment: Agreement with recreation recommendations.
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
written: 12/7/93

3. Comment: Plan adequately addresses cultural resources.
Alabama Historical Commission - written: 12.1.93

4. Comment: Referral to another district.
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers - written: 12/2/93

5. Comment: Disposal of Tract 115; transfer to USFWS.
H. T. Stone - written: 12/2/93

Public Comments and TVA Responses

Public Comments and TVA Responses

TVA identified the following 31 separate issues among the comments received from over 100 persons during public review of the draft Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan.

Issue 1

The draft Wheeler Plan recommended denying deeded rights of ingress and egress and requests for new permits for private shoreline improvements fronting portions of Hampton Campsite and Holland Lakeview Shores. The recommendation was made because backlying private landowners had no legal access to the reservoir across TVA land when they purchased the property, and the agency wanted to protect water quality, shoreline vegetation, and the scenic nature of the bluffs.

Response

This issue was one of the more controversial of the planning process because these landowners contended they were sold the property as "lakefront" rather than "lakeview," and TVA had permitted a small number of private use facilities in earlier years.

TVA hosted a special meeting at Joe Wheeler State Park to deal with this issue on February 3, 1994. The agency sent written invitations to all residents of the developments impacted by the recommendation and to representatives from the offices of Congressman Bud Cramer and Senator Richard Shelby.

The property owners presented seven ideas for TVA consideration:

- TVA should grant free landrights with permit conditions and enforceable penalties to individual property owners;
- TVA should sell landrights to individuals and offer permits for construction of private water use facilities;
- TVA should charge a nominal fee of $1 for individual permits for private water use facilities, "especially since we feel we have already paid for them when we bought our lots. . .;"
- Property owners should be required to use a registered or pre-approved facility design standard provided by TVA;
- TVA should allow property owners the right to transfer permits to potential buyers;
- TVA should not place hardships on present landowners who will experience a decrease in property value if the agency implements its recommendation;
- TVA should be consistent by permitting to us what has been approved to other individuals within our subdivisions and at other locations along the Elk River.

TVA presented the participants with its major concerns, which fell basically in three categories — fairness, legal landrights, and protection of the natural resources on TVA land from the cumulative impacts of private development.

Key TVA concerns included:

- Addressing use of the reservoir for the general public's enjoyment and not the enjoyment of a select few;

- Protecting the rights of those lakefront property owners who purchased the necessary landrights for ingress and egress across TVA public property;

- Meeting the agency's public accountability as a responsible steward of public lands and not as a broker for private development of a public land bank;

- Ensuring consistency with this and other TVA reservoir land management plans in terms of permitting private water use facilities, i.e., if previous permits had not been issued, no water use facilities would now be allowed;

- Maintaining legal landrights in a situation where TVA's straight-line boundary is clearly marked and where adjoining property owners have no legal landrights to request private water use facilities on or across TVA public land. Those who purchased lots should hold the seller legally responsible for misrepresenting any implied or advertised landrights not owned by the seller;

- Decreasing unauthorized timber cutting and vegetation removal between private property and the shoreline;

- Decreasing the loss of riparian wildlife habitat;

- Improving water quality and the fishery by decreasing erosion caused by removal of vegetation and private septic tank failures;

- Reversing the trend of net loss of public lands to private use;

- Protecting visually significant resources from private clutter and abandonment of personal property;

- Preventing the public perception of public land being privatized by extension of yards and landowner activities onto TVA property.

As a result of the meeting, TVA reached a compromise under which the agency will retain ownership of the property, but allow adjoining property owners to apply for a permit for access to the shoreline under the following conditions:

- Access to the lake across TVA property will be by footpath and/or steps only;

- No decks, shelters, or other structures will be constructed on TVA property except as provided in the following conditions;

- New or replacement piers or boathouses will require a floating rather than fixed construction design;

- Private water use facilities built on TVA property will be constructed in accordance with plans or designs drawn by a registered engineer and approved in writing by TVA. Such facilities will not be nailed or fixed to trees or other vegetation;

- Waterfront cleanliness will be maintained; that is, no temporary or permanent storage of any materials or recreation paraphernalia will be located on TVA property;

- Individuals wanting to paint their facilities must use earthtones, such as brown, gray, beige, dark green, etc.;

- All styrofoam used for flotation will not be exposed, but encased in metal or equivalent material;

- Each property owner granted a permit for access across TVA property shall agree to have the permit recorded in the office of the Judge of Probate for Limestone County. Otherwise, TVA has the option to deny the request;

- Existing and new permits will be transferable to future buyers if the adjoining private property is sold;

- All existing private water use facilities that have been permitted by TVA will be allowed to remain; however, existing facilities or improvements that were not permitted will be viewed as encroachments and subject to removal.

TVA also shared with participants potential implications of the agency's Shoreline Management Initiative, which could possibly result in a new policy requiring a fee for private water use facility permits. In addition, TVA may require subdivision lot owners to purchase the necessary landrights for ingress and egress to the shoreline. This would provide consistency with other landowners who have already paid for such rights on Wheeler and other reservoirs.

Issue 2

Hampton Campsite and Holland Lakeview Shores Homeowers Request Extension of Public Review Period

Response

TVA conducted three public meetings to allow both oral and written comment on the draft plan. Invitations were sent to all who had participated in the planning process since its inception. Additional names were added as the result of public workshops in March of 1991. For those unable to attend the meetings, TVA opened a written comment period of six weeks, from November 1 through December 12. TVA contacted and provided information to the local media and local organizations with newsletters.

Rather than extending the entire public comment period, the Wheeler planning team identified the areas of particular conflict around the reservoir, such as Hampton Campsite and Holland

Lakeview Shores. The team then focused on resolving those particular issues with those particular customers and stakeholders as described in the response to Issue 1.

Issue 3

Repair, Improve, Maintain Boat Ramp in Twindale Subdivision

Response

Twindale lot owners, represented by Bob Blanks, requested that TVA allow the lot owners in Twin Rivers Estates subdivision and Dell's Vista Shores subdivision to improve the existing launching ramp and parking area located on Tract 19.

The Wheeler Land Management team requested that the lot owners seek a state charter status to provide proof of incorporation. This would allow TVA to cooperate with a legal community association as opposed to individuals who could not legally represent the communities' concerns and values related to improvements on TVA public land.

Issue 4

Water Levels Fluctuate Too Much, Drawdown on Wheeler Too Severe

Response

A few individuals commented on the fluctuation of Wheeler Reservoir and their desire for the reservoir to be held at higher levels during the fall and winter (like Wilson Reservoir downstream). This is not a land management issue and was not addressed as part of the land management plan. However, because this is an often expressed concern on TVA lakes, the team wanted to provide clarification with a brief explanation.

Wheeler is a multiple purpose reservoir which operates to provide a range of benefits, including flood control, navigation, power generation, recreation, and water quality. When the nine mainstream dams were constructed, the two priorities were navigation and flood control. Where topography was not a limiting factor, TVA built in as much flood storage space as practical, as in the case of Wheeler. In other cases, such as Wilson (which TVA acquired), topography limited the amount of potential flood storage space. Wilson's water levels can be fluctuated very little without changing the channel depth required for navigation (9-foot minimum). Wheeler is typically operated between 550 and 552 from December to March. These levels provide the needed flood control storage for winter floodwater. The reservoir is usually filled to elevation 556 by mid-April. One foot fluctuations occur from May through September to help control mosquitoes which carry diseases. Summer levels are held through July, when the drawdown to winter levels begins. The lake reaches winter level in December.

Wheeler's operation has been consistent over the years. It is managed as an integral component of TVA's overall flood management system, as are all the lakes in the system. Wheeler's fluctuation of up to 6 feet for flood control purposes is minimal compared to the fluctuations of 40 feet or more on some lakes in the TVA system.

For additional information, a selected reference is recommended: *The Tennessee River and Reservoir System Operation and Planning Review*, TVA Environmental Impact Statement, December 1990. The document is commonly known as the "Lake Improvement Study." In addition, Wheeler operations have little or no impact on residents of backwater areas of the Elk River, or further up the Elk River itself. Water levels in those areas are affected more by natural inflows and by Tims Ford Dam approximately 132 miles upstream. Tims Ford is the only water regulation facility on the Elk.

Issue 5

Concern Over Industry on the Elk River, Potential Inconsistency of Visual Management vs. Industrial Development, Tracts 26 & 22, Wheeler Grainery and Tract 27

Response

Several individuals expressed concern about industrial designations in the Elk River vicinity and the potential incompatibility of industrial development and aesthetics.

Wheeler Reservoir and the Elk River are important resources for the entire community, not just adjacent property owners and recreational users. The Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan attempts to realize the value of these resources for as many people as possible and still meet TVA's objectives.

The economic development objectives included in the plan are designed to encourage new industry to locate on adjacent private land, to provide sites to meet current and future navigation needs, and to locate new industrial development near existing industries to minimize environmental and aesthetic impacts as much as possible.

Local and regional industrial development groups indicated a need for economic development opportunities on the Elk River, particularly in Lauderdale County. Officials asked TVA to reserve a river site near the existing 100-acre city industrial park and within the eastern sector of Lauderdale County to give them the flexibility to attract industrial prospects requiring water transportation. Both the Rogersville Industrial Development Board and the Shoals Industrial Development Authority agreed that Tract 22, allocated for industrial access and barge terminal, will be a valuable asset in recruiting industry and providing jobs for local residents, including high school, community college, and university graduates.

The tract is located on a wide expanse of water on the Elk, within 2 miles of the Tennessee River's main channel. It is the closest suitable site for a barge terminal with road access to serve the Rogersville Industrial Park. It is possible that the tract may not be developed over the next 10-year planning horizon. TVA will manage the existing pine stands on that site to ensure their continued health and productivity until such development may take place.

Tract 26 is a minor commercial landing which could be used on a limited basis if the need for short-term loading or unloading of barge commodities is required. This is the same designation the site carried for a number of years prior to the development of the reservoir plan.

The allocation for Tract 27, which is adjacent to the Wheeler Grain Company, appeared to indicate that TVA is adding another barge terminal, which is not the case. The confusion apparently stemmed from TVA's terminology. TVA's intention was to allocate property for future development of one or two mooring cells to facilitate the existing barge terminal owned by Wheeler Grain Company. Since TVA had no "mooring cell" designation for land use allocation, the "barge terminal" designation was used. This designation provides for features such as mooring cells. However, because of the confusion TVA has changed the tract description to more accurately reflect the proposed use.

Although currently not in operation, Wheeler Grain still has the legal landrights to develop and operate water use facilities on TVA land. The firm currently holds a valid permit from TVA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a waterfront barge terminal. TVA felt it prudent to plan for a safe navigation facility for the existing terminal, should it be operated in the future. Furthermore, because of limiting factors such as the small tract size (0.8 acre) and its location adjacent to the existing terminal, other allocations or uses for the tract were less feasible and desirable. An evaluation of the permanently moored barge at the site revealed that, although there may be some water in one end of the barge, it is not in danger of sinking or breaking loose.

Issue 6

Round Island Public Use Area Launch Dangerous Without Dock

Response

The boat ramp at Round Island Public Use Area is heavily used by recreational boaters. Although the ramp and the parking area are adequate, the location is subject to heavy winds which make launching difficult. TVA is aware of this problem and plans to install a new ramp, breakwater, and courtesy dock when funds permit.

Issue 7

Do Not Sell Tract 136 (renumbered as 134 and 135) As Plan Recommends

Response

These tracts were two of a dozen parcels the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service returned to TVA in 1975. They were remnants of property not located along the shoreline and they have eight private homes and a mobile home located just behind TVA's backlying property line.

All the private landowners involved have located their driveways on federal land and have no deeded rights of access from their residences to Rock House County Road. They sought to secure a permanent access to the road. In addition, they wanted TVA to continue ownership so their use of the land for lawns and vegetative screening could continue uninterrupted by encroaching neighbors or any investment on their part.

By law, TVA cannot sell land to individuals, but can offer the property at fair market value at public auction. There are no guarantees, but because the parcels are small segmented

pieces of land between existing driveways, it is unlikely that others would be interested in purchasing these remnants. Prior to any land sale, arrangements will be made to offer each adjoining resident a permanent easement for a single road access to their respective dwellings. The cost of each easement has not been determined.

Issue 8

Lack of Education/Communication of TVA Landrights, Land Types

Response

Several individuals commented that TVA does not do a good enough job communicating to the public what lands and landrights the agency owns around Wheeler.

TVA agrees that this is the case around Wheeler, as well as the other lakes in the system. Agency land holdings and landrights are complicated. TVA owns different lands and landrights around its reservoirs, and often has varying landrights around a single reservoir. It is difficult to ensure that everyone who has an interest receives the appropriate information unless they contact the agency. However, TVA has taken a number of steps that may improve the situation.

The land management plans TVA is developing for each reservoir are an effective education process in themselves. In addition, the agency has dispersed its land management teams from 4 locations to 11 locations around the Valley.

This puts TVA representatives in closer touch with customers with land use questions and allows them to work more proactively with the public, real estate agencies, developers and lending institutions to communicate pertinent reservoir land information.

TVA also publishes *TVA Lake Neighbors*, a free newsletter devoted to reservoir operations. The publication also often contains valuable information about TVA's reservoir lands.

Also available is a brochure, *Save Yourself Time and Money - Ask TVA First.* Although the land management office locations and phone numbers are dated, the brochure provides helpful information about TVA's shoreline regulations and permitting process. It is available by calling 1-800-TVA-LANDS. This toll-free number is another effort the agency has made to open lines of communications with the public and make it easy to get reservoir land questions answered.

In addition, TVA is preparing one-page factsheets for each reservoir. The factsheets will be widely distributed around each reservoir to give customers basic information about the respective lakes and the kinds of landrights and permitting requirements that exist.

Issue 9

Faulty Analysis of Data from Public Workshops

Response

When tallying the pubic comment themes for Table 1-A (Clements High School), the score was incorrectly recorded for industrial economic impact. As pointed out at the public review meeting, a mistake was made in reporting the 12 themes associated with the "limiting additional industrial growth" category (see Results of Public Workshop, Appendix A: Public Participation). Instead of reporting the 12 citizens who wanted limited or clustered industrial growth on Wheeler, a single individual who favored industrial growth was reported.

There is no question that correcting the data would have made some difference in the positioning of this category relative to the entire list. However, the category called "limiting additional industrial growth" was already fifth within the top 10 responses for the Clements workshop. The team realized the mistake did not impact the decision to prepare specific objectives. The objective in the plan which captures this public concern is identified in the plan as objective Number 3.

A second error, also noted at the public workshop, related to the lake levels or water depth category. This was located in Table 1-A as category Number 17. Even though this is an important issue and moderately valued by the public, the Wheeler planning team did not consider it for a planning objective because it was not a land issue. TVA addressed the lake level issue in the 1990 *Tennessee River and Reservoir System Operation and Planning Review* document.

The intent of the public workshops was to determine from the public what types of land management issues should be addressed in the Wheeler Land Management Plan. The three workshops were designed to ensure a wide range of diverse land management issues and concerns could be identified.

The workshops were not intended as a strict voting mechanism. However, it should be remembered that the summary was done to provide a general prioritization so the planning team could begin to narrow the focus of those issues that should be addressed as lands planning objectives. The data evaluation was not designed to be a scientific statistical analysis.

The planning team considered the overall results of the public workshops and the public review meetings as positive and the sessions provided a beneficial forum that properly incorporated public views and comments into the Wheeler land planning process.

Issue 10

TVA's Forestry Plans as Outlined in the Wheeler Plan

Response

Five individuals raised various concerns and questions relating to plans for forest management activities on TVA lands around Wheeler and TVA lands in general. When TVA purchased the Wheeler reservoir land in the 1930's, there were thousands of acres of idle and abandoned agricultural fields in need of stabilization. Much of this area was reforested with loblolly pine between 1933 and 1941, and many other areas were planted in subsequent years. The number of acres being reforested now is low because there are a limited number of areas idle and available for planting.

Since 1989, TVA reforestation efforts have included research on planting and survival of several oak species on idle agricultural fields. This research will determine if hardwood stands can be successfully planted, which would be more desirable than allowing them to revert naturally.

The Wheeler plan is the first reservoir plan to include the "pine management" land use category, principally because pine constitutes over 2,200 acres of planted and natural stands on TVA land around Wheeler. These lands are reflective of the importance of pine forests as a component of North Alabama's natural forestlands prior to European settlement.

Much of the private pine lands in North Alabama are managed on a short-rotation basis, which has resulted in few older pine stands. TVA's management objective for its pine plantations is to produce older pine forests that are missing in the North Alabama ecosystem. However, in order to maintain their health and vigor, it is necessary to periodically thin these stands, which often produces pulpwood products. TVA's significant investment in these stands demands proper management.

On the whole, old growth has become an important issue in the eastern forests, and although numerous scientists have studied it, there is no set of accepted definition of what constitutes "old-growth". In 1992, TVA developed a unique set of guidelines for identifying old-growth by consolidating attributes from several other lists. All TVA forests are subject to review for these old-growth considerations, and those that meet the criteria will not be harvested until final U.S. Forest Service guidelines are completed. TVA is committed to preserving all legitimate old-growth stands on its lands.

Although the TVA Act does not specifically state timber production as a goal, Section 22 of the Act does state that TVA is "To aid further the proper use, conservation and development of the natural resources of the Tennessee River drainage basin . . ." Current harvesting on TVA lands affects only a small percentage of the total TVA land base, and it is done in accordance with Section 22. TVA harvests timber for a number of reasons — to salvage timber damaged by insects or disease, to create wildlife habitat, and to increase the health and vigor of the forests by regenerating mature stands of trees.

Prior to 1980, virtually all TVA harvests utilized single tree selection. While this approach promoted shade-tolerant species such as red maple, beech, blackgum and black cherry, it was not good for oaks and hickories, which require more sunlight and are more valuable from both a wildlife and forestry perspective. TVA is convinced that a variety of harvesting methods is needed to create the most public benefits from TVA lands.

TVA developed Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forestry activities on TVA lands in 1990. The BMPs are a combination of the seven Valley states' guidelines, and when written, were more stringent than those of any individual state. All harvesting on TVA land is subject to these BMPs, and TVA foresters regularly monitor operations for compliance.

Numerous studies have shown that erosion is significantly reduced when BMPs are followed and that erosion associated with timber harvesting comes from road construction and use, not harvesting practices. In other words, clearcuts do not produce any more soil erosion than selective cuts if roads are comparable.

Recently, TVA began working to more closely integrate forestry and wildlife management and to involve the public in natural resource management decisions on TVA lands. The agency is moving toward an "ecosystem management" approach to natural resource management on its lands, piloting this effort on Guntersville Reservoir's Compartment 52.

TVA has no plans to export any forest products. The section of the Wheeler plan concerning regional trends addresses the wood products industry as a whole and is not specific to TVA lands. This section forecasts future trends for forest products in the Wheeler Reservoir area. TVA does occasionally sell timber, as previously noted, and some of this is certainly processed into consumer products.

Issue 11

More Industrialization, Job Creation Needed On Wheeler

Response

TVA made every effort to accommodate economic development needs. Agency representatives met with local and regional economic development organizations and the regional councils of government to obtain their views on economic development needs, as well as recreation and environmental issues.

The planning team evaluated many requests for use of TVA land for economic development activities, and the areas shown in the plan are the results of team consideration of all possible uses.

There was also concern expressed that the plan does not set aside adequate land exclusively for industries which need waterborne transportation or which depend on the Tennessee River for large amounts of water. TVA gave consideration to this potential, but because of specific road and rail access requirements, only a limited number of sites adjoining TVA land are suitable for these industries. TVA made every effort to accommodate such industries where the infrastructure required for their development existed.

Issue 12

Freeman Acres Subdivision - Private Use of Public Land

Response

This was another area of conflict for the Wheeler land planning team. Approximately 16 property owners having no deeded ingress or egress rights extended their back yards across TVA public land and wanted to continue to use the shoreland for their exclusive activities. In addition, some property owners wanted TVA to grandfather six existing, unapproved boat ramps and allow lot owners to continue to mow undergrowth to the shoreline and sell or lease public land fronting selected lots for private use and development.

For over 30 years, TVA has managed this public property and has consistently communicated to adjoining lot owners that they could not use this land for their private recreation area. The land has been abused and misused with unauthorized docks, piers, launching ramps, driveways, buildings, tree cutting, landscaping, clearing, mowing, garbage dumps and storage of personal property.

TVA responded to 12 Congressional inquiries regarding this issue and proposed a compromise in January 1993 with the Freeman Acres Association. This compromise was publicly rejected. The association later requested a meeting with TVA Chairman Craven Crowell via Congressman Bevill. Chairman Crowell hosted a listening session on September 28, 1994, in which lot owners repeated their requests and in which he learned that the subdivision has a community lot with launching ramp and pier that is available for all subdivision residents.

The Chairman made the following decision as a result of that meeting:

- Inform in writing all adjacent property owners that they do not own the necessary landrights to construct private water use facilities, mow grass, cut trees, or alter the natural riparian vegetation on TVA public lands;

- Honor TVA's proposed compromise with the association as outlined in the Wheeler Land Management Plan;

- Remove the six private boat ramps and other structures currently in violation on TVA public lands;

- Replant trees that have been removed by backlying property owners or were blown down during recent storms;

- Plant vegetation as a buffer strip to provide wildlife habitat and protect water quality;

- Request adjacent lot owners to cease mowing public lands except along the 20-foot area parallel to TVA's straight-line boundary where private cottages and homes adjoin a common property line.

Issue 13

Opportunity for Private Individuals' Purchase of TVA Property

Response

Section 31 of the TVA Act directs that ". . . no real estate shall be held except what is necessary in the opinion of the Board to carry out plans and projects actually decided upon requiring the use of such land; provided, that any land purchased by the authority and not necessary to carry out plans and projects actually decided upon shall be sold by the authority as agent of the United States, after due advertisement, at public auction to the highest bidder . . ."

No provision is made for negotiated sale of TVA property. The appraised value of the property is established by TVA real estate appraisers. TVA retains in the sale deed necessary rights to carry out its statutory programs of river control and development. Generally, the type of use is not specified, but the agency does have the option to designate the permissible use of a tract as part of a sale.

Issue 14

Planned Sale of Wheeler Tract Below Guntersville Dam Contested

Response

After comments received during the public comment period on the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan, the TVA planning team reviewed Tract 202, a 5-acre piece of property below Guntersville Dam on Shoal Creek. Originally, the team designated the tract as surplus; however, public concern was considered and TVA decided to retain the land for informal recreation and visual management. Although the tract is small and isolated from other TVA reservoir lands, it contains a beautiful stand of large pine and hardwood trees. This change in allocation reflects why public participation is so important in the lands planning process.

Issue 15

TVA Abandonment of Rights On Tracts 28, 32

Response

During the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan public participation process, several individuals owning land in these developments claimed that TVA had abandoned certain rights on two adjoining tracts of land owned by the Federal Government.

These two adjoining tracts are designated as XWR-463R and XWR-70R, respectively, in TVA land records, and are designated as tracts 32 and 28, respectively, in the Wheeler Land Management Plan. TVA's Office of the General Counsel reviewed the relevant documents and determined that TVA has not abandoned any rights on these federal lands.

In 1946 TVA, as agent for the United States, sold Tract XWR-202, which became Holland Lakeview Subdivision, and Tract XWR-206, which became Hampton Campsites. In the deeds conveying the tracts, TVA reserved certain rights on and over those portions of the conveyed land located below the 560-foot contour elevation. TVA also reserved certain rights on and over those portions of the conveyed tracts within 250 feet of the shoreline, regardless of elevation.

In 1957 TVA determined that it had no further need for the rights it had reserved on these sold tracts within 250 feet of the shoreline, except for the land located below the 560-foot contour elevation. Accordingly, the agency abandoned those rights on the land between the 560-foot contour and the 250-foot line on the sold tracts, including XWR-202 and XWR-206. The abandonment declaration did not include adjoining federal property, XWR-463R and XWR-70R, nor was their any intention to abandon any rights pertaining to that property. TVA abandoned only rights it had reserved in the **sold** tracts, but **did not** abandon any rights on the land it **had not sold**. The United States retains full ownership of XWR-463R and XWR-70R, and the owners of adjacent land have acquired no property rights in these tracts.

Issue 16

Erosion Problem On Tract 28

Response

Overall, TVA does not consider erosion severe. The shoreline is predominantly steep and rocky nearer the water's edge. Mature hardwood trees, principally oaks and hickories, provide extensive root systems that hold the relatively thin topsoil on these slopes in place.

Although periodic high flows in the Elk River have scoured portions of the rocky shoreline, the slight-to-moderate erosion is confined to the three or four major drainages. Though vegetated, these drainages collect and channel water during heavy rains.

TVA's larger concern is the increased erosion likely from the construction of new private water use facilities and associated clearing of vegetation, including tree cutting. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) classifies the soils along this shoreline as highly erodible because of soil type, soil depth, and steep topography. This land will be much more likely to erode if vegetation is removed for access paths, step construction, lake views, etc.

Issue 17

Logs, Debris On Elk River

Response

TVA recognizes that logs and other natural floating debris in the Elk River create problems for boaters, sightseers, and landowners. The situation is particularly troublesome during the spring as water levels return to summer pool. This natural debris is caused largely by a sizeable, predominately forested watershed, bank erosion, and the inaccessibility of portions of the shoreline for periodic cleanup activities.

On the positive side, a certain amount of organic debris is ecologically beneficial. It recycles nutrients into the aquatic system, provides cover and structure for fish, and furnishes foraging areas for amphibians, reptiles, semi-aquatic mammals, waterfowl, water and wading birds.

The key is to achieve an acceptable balance. Unfortunately, TVA has determined that the costs associated with regular removal of this material is prohibitive. If logjams are creating problems with bridges or road culverts, or constitute major navigation hazards, the agency will respond.

TVA encourages private individuals to do more, such as forming or joining a local river cleanup group. TVA often assists with such cleanups each spring and can provide information on how to organize and conduct these activities. Similar groups around the Valley have been very successful in dealing with debris and trash.

Issue 18

Habitat Enhancement, Endangered Species, Lack of Habitat Protection Areas

Response

TVA has made significant contributions to habitat enhancement, endangered species protection, and habitat protection around Wheeler Reservoir. Shortly after Wheeler's impoundment, TVA transferred some 34,500 acres of land to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to establish Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.

In addition, TVA has set aside more than 4,600 acres for management by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as part of two wildlife management areas. Compared to the 10,300 remaining acres of TVA land around Wheeler, this represents a substantial committment to habitat and "natural" areas.

The Wheeler team is also recommending the approval of six additional areas totaling nearly 500 acres for habitat protection purposes. These areas will be managed for controlled access and appropriate levels of passive recreation. Some of these areas harbor endangered plants and animals.

By identifying and protecting these areas, TVA is complying with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which was designed to ensure that federal actions do not jeopardize the existence of rare living things.

The Fish & Wildlife Service enforces the ESA and oversees implementation of activities involving federal government actions or interests. Any TVA action that might harm a listed species, one proposed for listing, or its habitat requires consultation with the Fish & Wildlife Service. Special permits are required to disturb or relocate such species.

Collecting, killing, harassing, or possessing federally listed *animals* is prohibited, even on private land. However, federally listed *plants* belong to the landowner, and, in the case of private land, can be removed without penalty.

Issue 19

Sewage Plant Effluent Levels in Elk River

Response

The Department of Environmental Management regulates industrial and municipal discharges into waters of Alabama, and placement of such structures is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. TVA's non-regulatory approval is needed under Section 26a of the TVA Act if the development poses an obstruction to navigation or flood control, or potentially affects public lands.

Both point and non-point sources of pollution, flow regulation, and natural processes are affecting the water quality and aquatic life of Wheeler Reservoir and its tributaries. Like rivers in many other large tributary watersheds, the Elk is more influenced by non-point sources of pollution — runoff from agricultural operations, roads, urban areas, and stormwater discharges. No municipal sewer system discharges directly into the Elk River below the point of influence (the 556-foot elevation) of Wheeler Reservoir. TVA is convinced that sewage treatment facilities upstream of Wheeler are being properly regulated and any instances of noncompliance discharges have not harmed the reservoir.

To improve water quality in the Wheeler Reservoir and Elk River area, TVA has formed the Wheeler/Elk River Action Team. The team is comprised of various specialists who work with communities, organizations, local governments, individuals, and businesses to identify and correct water quality problems related to non-point sources. The team, which has several projects underway, can be contacted by calling (615) 751-7318.

Issue 20

Watermilfoil Control

Response

Fluctuations in aquatic plants from year to year are caused primarily by environmental conditions. During drought conditions such as those from 1984-1988, low flows and clear water provided good growing conditions. Plants expanded from fewer than 2,500 acres in 1981 to almost 10,000 acres in 1988.

Normal spring and early summer flooding creates high flows and cloudy water which are unfavorable for the plants. This situation occurred on Wheeler in 1989-1990, and the plants declined to fewer than 2,000 acres. Since 1990, growing conditions have been more favorable and plant coverage increased to approximately 6,600 acres in 1994. TVA has not treated any plants on Wheeler since 1989.

TVA recognizes there are both positives and negatives associated with aquatic plants. The plants can provide a variety of habitat for fish and wildlife. They can also prevent recreational boating, skiing, and access in some places along shorelines.

TVA's strategy for managing aquatic plants on Wheeler Reservoir has been to control plants only in specific high-use sites when they become excessive and prohibit accepted uses. Currently, TVA monitors customer complaints on Wheeler, inspects the areas, and selects control options as needed.

TVA is committed to reducing the use of chemicals to control aquatic vegetation in these highly targeted, select areas, but if chemicals are necessary, the areas are posted to notify the public of treatment and any applicable water use restrictions. Only herbicides approved by the Environmental Protection Agency are used. A map identifying the only areas which TVA considers high-use areas is available for viewing in the local land management office.

TVA is developing aquatic plant control plans for each reservoir where aquatic plants can cause problems. The agency conducts public opinion surveys and hosts meetings of various user groups to devise a plan that is acceptable to all interests. On Chickamauga and Nickajack, for instance, TVA is testing a three-year program to control aquatic vegetation by use of mechanical mowing. The agency is using no chemicals for this three-year period.

Issue 21

Concern Over Water Quality Monitoring, Agricultural Runoff, Non-Point Pollution

Response

See response to Issue 19

Issue 22

No New Commerical Recreation

Response

A few individuals pointed out that even recreation facilities can be unsightly or harmful to the environment, and should not automatically be approved for shoreline sites. Golf courses were mentioned twice in this regard. No proposals for large commercial recreation developments, including golf courses, were submitted for consideration, nor were any approved under this plan.

Issue 23

Opposition to New Private Use Permits

Response

Many Valley residents have expressed concern about the continued proliferation of private water use facilities around TVA lakes. TVA commissioned the Gallup Organization to conduct a public opinion survey and hosted 13 meetings around the Valley as part of an effort to develop a new shoreline management policy. The new policy will identify areas where private use facilities will and will not be allowed. The policy will also address environmental considerations and development standards. A draft environmental impact statement examining a range of policy options will be available for public review later this year. For more information, call 1-800-TVA-LAND.

Issue 24

Roped Off Swimming Areas Needed

Response

Safe places to swim are a desirable part of any plan for public reservoir recreation, and it is true that Wheeler could probably support additional beaches and swimming areas. TVA currently provides three, one on the Wheeler Dam Reservation, one at Round Island, and the other at Mallard Creek Public Use Area.

Unfortunately, there will probably be no more beaches developed on TVA land during the 10-year planning period. To be viable, beaches are normally included as part of larger public recreation facilities that feature a number of outdoor recreation opportunities, such as camping, picnicking, hiking, etc. Beach sites also must have clean water, gently sloping shoreline, and protection from wave action and boat traffic. Given the amount of TVA land left that is suitable for any kind of formal public recreation and tight fiscal resources, such a development is unlikely.

Issue 25

Reduce or Eliminate Private Access on TVA Land

Response

The issue that aroused the greatest emotion involved private access to the reservoir across TVA land. In deciding each case, the Wheeler team considered any existing legal documentation, agency needs, precedents, if any, and whether public needs were being compromised in favor of a few individuals.

General public response was not ambivalent — the shoreline should be kept as nearly "natural" as possible, and it should basically look the same way 10 years from now. There were disagreements, of course, over what "natural" means, and few were willing to see their own dock or boathouse as an eyesore, or such private water use development was compromising a large segment of shoreline and could be intefering with someone else's rights to the reservoir.

Complicating these discussions was the fact that a number of lots backlying TVA lands were apparently sold as if rights to the reservoir across TVA lands had already been acquired, or were automatic upon application. Another complication was that TVA had been less than consistent in handling land use requests in the past.

Eventually, decisions came down based less on the side of legal rights and more on the side of essential fairness. In most cases, TVA was able to satisfy interested parties. In a few cases, no one was satisfied.

The process did, however, highlight the need for a more rational, consistent TVA policy in dealing with shoreline uses and routine administration of requests. TVA's Shoreline

Management Initiative is dealing with this challenge through public meetings and development of an environmental impact statement that will consider the impacts of a range of new policy options. The draft statement is expected to be available for public review later this year.

Issue 26

Upgrade Boat Launches at Spring Creek and Swoope Road

Response

Tract 71, on the east side of Spring Creek, contains an informal boat access that gets ocassional use. Public Recreation is one of the designated uses for this site, and there is some chance this ramp might be upgraded in the future. However, the project would likely have low priority, since there is a state ramp located on the Spring Creek embayment just across from and downstream of this site. User numbers would not justify another formal launch facility on the same embayment.

The Wheeler team inspected the Swoope site and discussed the feasibility of upgrading the informal access site and adding a small parking lot. However, there was general agreement that the small pond and land base would not support a major increase in use without damage to the environment.

Additionally, the channel between Spring Creek and Swoope Pond was constructed to aid mosquito control and was never intended to be a navigation channel. Clearing the channel could also result in overuse of the area.

Issue 27

Anderson Creek Channel Depth Too Shallow

Response

Several participants commented they saw no indication of plans to improve the depth of channel in Anderson Creek and other areas of the Elk River. The Wheeler Land Management Plan was developed to evaluate and identify the most suitable use of TVA land, not to evaluate the condition of the reservoir itself.

The Anderson Creek embayment has a small channel with the bottom below elevation 538 or 539, which always has nine feet or more depth of water. Other areas in the creek have a bottom elevation ranging from elevation 538 to the bank shoreline of 556. During most of the year, Anderson Creek has an adequate channel for boaters. During periods of drawdown to elevations 550 and 551, there is limited channel depth. Due to environmental considerations, however, TVA has no plans to dredge recreational channels.

Issue 28

Specific Industrial Development Corrections

Response

TVA made corrections to the plan which indicated there are five counties within the jurisdiction of the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments, and the Space Development Initiative was changed to Strategic Defense Initiative.

Issue 29

Change Tract 13 Allocation to Economic Development

Response

All the land in four tracts (11-14) was initially requested for economic development purposes by Lawrence County and regional economic development interests. Tracts 12 and 14 were designated for economic development purposes for industrial access (not industrial site) and barge terminal sites to encourage new industry to locate on adjacent private land and use designated corridors across TVA land for access to the reservoir. Tracts 11 and 13 were removed from consideration because a TVA survey showed significant cultural resources on these two tracts. In addition, Tract 11 is close to a residential area.

Issue 30

Silt Accumulation, Shallow Depth of Second Creek

Response

Erosion is a major concern and is one of the primary causes of physical and biological changes in the region's streams and rivers. Although there is a certain amount of natural erosion, the problem identified in Second Creek appears to involve additional sources.

In TVA's continuing efforts to improve water quality in the region, the agency formed the Wheeler/Elk River Action Team. The team is addressing water quality concerns in the Wheeler watershed and the Second Creek siltation problem was referred to this team.

Issue 31

Limit Number of Wet Boat Storage Units and Size of Pleasure Boats

Response

TVA exercises some control over the number and type of wet boat storage units by imposing harbor limits on commercial operators and by the agency's permitting process. However, TVA has no strict guidelines for controlling the number of these units.

Planners recognize the number of slips has some relationship to the recreational carrying capacity of a particular reservoir, but a maximum desirable number would be difficult, if not impossible, to calculate. Such a number would also be difficult to enforce. At present, TVA tends to rely on the influence of supply and demand to hold numbers in balance.

As attractive as it might sound to some small boat operators, TVA has no authority to limit the size of recreational craft on it's reservoirs, and has no plans to obtain such authority. States and the U.S. Coast Guard regulate watercraft. At a minimum, such TVA action would require a cooperative agreement between several state and federal agencies and might also require changes in legislation at the national level. Physical navigation restrictions are the only limitations on watercraft size for the forseeable future.

Written Public Comments
(Appendix)

In order by date as written and received

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 South Perry Street
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

F. LAWERENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE NUMBER
242-3184

November 16, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
TVA
Reservoir Land Management
Natural Resources Building
Norris, TN 37828

Re: Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan
Multiple Counties, AL

Dear Mr. Boardman:

Upon review of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan, the Alabama Historical Commission has determined the following. In our opinion, known cultural resources are addressed which should provide protection for these resources. However, any activity on TVA land that has not been surveyed for cultural resources could impact unknown cultural resources which may be significant and eligible for the National Register. We would hope TVA would be mindful of this in future operations.

Our office is willing to assist you in any way possible. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

F. Lawerence Oaks

F. Lawerence Oaks
State Historic Preservation Officer

FLO/GCR/gtj

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2074
NOV 19 93

MOORE
McZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
McCONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH

FILES

Barbara Laubenthal

I am a property owner in Hampton Campsites Subdivision and I protest the changes in the land use of Tract 28 which would deny any future granting of private water use permits to the adjoining landowners. I protest on the following grounds:

1) **TVA did not notify the property owners of the land adjoining Tract 28 of the workshops that were conducted in 1991 to study the long range land plan for Wheeler Reservoir.** Surely property holders who had applied or had permits issued by TVA should have had written notification. We should have been informed of these meetings if our property was to be adversely affected so that TVA would comply with the constitutional guarantee of due process.

2) **There is no evidence to conclude that the attendees of these workshops were a broad base representation of the population of Wheeler Reservoir.** Of the 192 people who attended the three workshops conducted in Athens, Huntsville and Decatur, only 67 said they were informed by mail. (Page 93, Appendix A, Results of Public Workshops, March 1991) Workshop attendees were asked to respond to the following three questions:

a) What do you value about Wheeler Reservoir?

b) What improvements and changes in the management of TVA land on Wheeler Reservoir would increase its value to you?

c) What should the shoreline of Wheeler Reservoir look like in terms of development and land use ten years from now?

To base long term land management of the reservoir on their responses to these three questions is both unwise and ill-conceived. After reading the attendees' responses, I note that not one respondent suggested

Rec'd - 11-30-93

prohibiting the granting of private permits in Tract 28. Rather, I interpret their intent to be one of minimizing commercial development. Their responses concerning residential growth were varied but, in general, there was an indication of interest in expanding private usage. The Wheeler Planning Team recommends (page 264 of the draft of Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan) expansion of the existing barge terminal site in Tract 27.

3) **I question the logic on TVA's part in expanding the barge terminal site in Tract 27 while simultaneously classifying Tract 28 as visual management.** Page 264 of the draft of the Wheeler Reservoir Land management Plan states that Tract 27 has been traditionally used as a commercial barge terminal. I question this term "traditionally" because this site has only been used as a barge terminal since 1984 when TVA granted Wheeler Grain Co. a permit. To protect the recreational use of this stretch of Elk River, this permit allowed the barge site to be operated only during certain hours during the summer months and not at all on the weekends. Also limited was the number of barges that could be tied up at any one time. On page 264, the Wheeler Planning Team proposes expanding the barge terminal site. There appears to be a lack of consistency on TVA's part in expanding this barge site while at the same time restricting the private use in the adjoining Tract 28.

4. **TVA has allowed private use permits of Tract 28 for more than twenty years.** The land abutting Tract 28 was sold in 1971 as "river lots." From 1971 to 1991 TVA granted permits to landowners that allowed construction of stairs, piers, and boathouses that did not adversely impact the environment. All but three of the homes in Hampton Campsites Subdivision are permanent homes. The value of our mortgages are based on the fact that TVA has traditionally granted permits. To change

this policy would adversely affect the value of our property. If we had to sell, our property would only be worth 70-80 percent of its original assessed value.

5) **I feel that we are being unreasonably restricted by this plan.** Our structures are unobtrusive and impact the environment very little. On page 3, line 38, of the deed from The United States of America to Dorothy G. Von Dreele, it is stated that Tract 28 is for the benefit of the general public to hunt, fish, and and picnic but not for overnight camping. Since we have a right to use this land, I feel that a set of stairs down a steep hill or bluff will cause much less erosion over the long run than paths or trails down the same hill or bluff. We have done no unauthorized timber cutting and to penalize us because others have is unfair and unjust. Furthermore, we clean the litter and debris from the shore adjoining our properties. We are also very environmentally minded and feel strongly about protecting this stretch of the river for our use and for the use of future generations. These are our homes, and our life savings are invested here. There are also three woodduck boxes that have been put up by residents of this subdivision.

One of the goals of the Wheeler Planning Team as stated on page 268 of the draft of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan states:

> ...protect this visually significant resource for all the public to enjoy instead of a select few.

We share our homes and our docks with extended family and friends. These people are "the public" too and most do not have boats and, therefore, would never have the opportunity to experience the beauty and wonder of the river. I feel that "the public' to which TVA refers is in reality the "select few" who view our bluffs as they pass by in boats (usually at 40+ mph).

We, the landowners of Hampton Campsites subdivision, are committed to the same goals as TVA -- the protection and

preservation of the Wheeler Reservoir. We would consider the drafting of a protective covenant, with input from TVA, with explicit statements regarding what is allowed and what is restricted in Tract 28, with the primary goal being the protection of the natural habitat and environment.

Barbara Laubenthal

After researching the deeds regarding the selling of the land which is now Hampton Campsite Subdivision to TVA and then from TVA back to a private individual, I have come to the conclusion that TVA abandoned control of this property above the 560 contour in an instrument made and entered to on January 15, 1957 and recorded on February 26, 1957 in Book 528, page 465.

I, therefore, feel that TVA does not have a right to impose restrictions as to how this property is to be used above the 560 contour and the proposed draft needs to be modified with these restrictions removed.

RONNIE B. HARAWAY
ROUTE 1 BOX 78
PINE HAVEN SHORES
ROGERSVILLE, AL 35652
22 NOVEMBER 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Tennessee Valley Authority
Reservoir Land Management
Natural Resources Building
Norris, TN 37828

Mr. Boardman:

First, please accept my commendation for the effort that is being placed in the development of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. It is reassuring to know there is a broad scope of effects being evaluated and the Planning is not being too hastily completed.

As I work shifts at one of the plants located along the shore of Wheeler Lake and at this time am scheduled to work twelve hour night shift when the public review meeting will be held at Clements, I am writing my concerns with the plan to you, directly.

Regarding Water Quality, I am very concerned that proper and efficient monitoring, both in the immediate and long range future, be provided for in the Plan. At my place of employment, we were once required to sample the river above and below our effluent point. To my knowledge this is no longer required. Granted, I am not as concerned with our effluent as I am some of the other industries along the river, but I feel monitoring either by the industries themselves with unscheduled audits by T.V.A., sampling by T.V.A. or, yet maybe even better, sampling and analysis by an independent third party is absolutely imperative to the life of our river.

My second greatest concern regarding Water Quality is agriculture, a great part of the lifeblood of the Tennessee Valley. I was reared on a farm and still have some farm interests. I want to make this clear and that my concern is not from someone who knows nothing about agriculture or realizes its necessity. Pesticides and herbicides are both great concerns and you have addressed these. My other concern I don't see addressed specifically. Animal Feedlots near the river or tributaries are, in my opinion, deadly. One is located on a hillside above a small stream that feeds into Second Creek. Where the runoff feeds into the creek, I have seen what appears to be methane bubbles actually churning the water. It would seem a permit for these would be required with strict monitoring.

My last concern is erosion of land into the river system, especially the tributaries, and more specifically our own Second

Creek. It appears to me that over the last few years our creek is actually becoming more shallow and heading toward a non-navigational depth by motor watercraft because of mud and silt washing in from above the backwater and nature is not flushing it out. I would really like to see the Management Plan address this issue in greater detail.

Your attention is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ronnie B. Haraway

Ronnie B. Haraway

November 29, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Wheeler Reservoir Land Planning
National Reservoir Building
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Dear Sir:

I would like to make a comment on the driveways that cross TVA land to reach a public road. I am referring to track No. 136.

When the U.S. Department of Interior (Wildlife Refuge) gave us permission to build the driveways, no deed for these right of ways were ever mentioned. The driveways were built forty (40) of fifty (50) years ago. My driveway has been in use since 1942. This public road was constructed in 1935 as a direct law suit settlement. My grandmother owned the northwest quarter of section twenty two (22) and on May 13, 1935 she sold 100 acres to the Government (T.V.A.) This left her 60 acres without an access to a public road. Sometime after May 13, 1935, the Government (TVA) constructed a road from Suancott Road along the Eastern side of the newly acquired TVA lands they bought from my grandmother. This road continued south and touched the 60 acres in two (2) places, so she would have access to a public road in 2 places. All the driveways we are talking about are from homes on this 60 acres.

I feel strongly that these homeowners, including myself, should be given the right of way deeds to these roads. The Shermon Marsh Road has been renamed Rockhouse Road. The county widened and paved the road in 1961 or 1962. They also straightened and moved the road farther over on the refuge or TVA. Some driveways had to be extended to reach the new road and the county did this work. The old roadway bed can still be seen. This first road did not go all the way across the T.V.A. land at the time it was constructed. Some months later, my father got the county to connect this portion of road to the South end of Rockhouse Road, which extends south to the T.V.A. property line at the Tennessee River. All the owners feel as I do, that the original road constructed by TVA was to give access to this 60 acre farm and right of ways should be deeded to us. We were never informed as to why the county moved the newly paved road away from the private land.

I, and everyone else, I am sure, wish to cooperate, so we might bring about a satisfactory solution that is fair to everyone concerned.

As for disposition of track No. 136, I am in favor of T.V.A. continuing ownership. This land has two acres that high water floods and if the T.V.A needed it in 1935, they still need it now.

Sincerely,

Joseph S. Marsh, Jr.

Joseph S. Marsh, Jr.

LAN 6-

J. Porter Taylor, Director of Reservoir Properties, 109 WCB, Knoxville

W. C. Murray, Manager, Southern District, DRP, 601 FFB, Muscle Shoals

August 15, 1975

WHEELER RESERVOIR - PRIVATE DRIVES ACROSS LAND RECONVEYED TO TVA BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

On August 5, 1975, W. E. Smith and I met with Grady Holland, Limestone County Commissioner, to discuss public access across Government lands as promised in Mr. Wagner's July 21 letter to Senator Allen.

The Sherman Marsh Road, shown in blue on the attached map, and the gravel road, shown in purple, are maintained by the county. The private drives shown in red are not. Also shown are the existing houses and mobile homes served by the private drives.

We discussed with Mr. Holland the possibility of conveying the county road rights of way, shown in green, along the TVA property line. The county could accept rights of way which serve several residences. The proposed road immediately south of US-TVA monument 142 would meet the requirement. It appears that one between monuments 31 and 32 would not.

Please let us have your comments on a proposal to notify the residents maintaining private drives across the TVA land that we will not object to continued use of the existing drives; however, additional drives will not be permitted. In any future disposition of this property, we would expect to reserve access rights of way along the TVA property line as shown in green on the attached map.

We plan to have Data Services Branch survey and map the property lines, private drives, and residences for use in future discussions with the county and the area residents. Estimated cost for this service is $350.

WES:MK
Attachment

HERMAN E. TALMADGE, GA., CHAIRMAN
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MICHAEL R. MC LEOD
GENERAL COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 22, 1975

Mr. Joseph S. Marsh, Jr.
Route 1, Box 171
Madison, Alabama 35758

Dear Mr. Marsh:

As you will recall, I contacted officials of the Tennessee Valley Authority after receiving your recent letter concerning the need for rights-of-way for several families in your area over property in the process of being reconveyed by the Department of the Interior to TVA.

I am pleased to send you the enclosed letter from the Chairman of the Board of the Tennessee Valley Authority, which I received in response to my expression of interest in your problem. I feel sure you will be relieved to learn that TVA officials will work with you and other families affected by the reconveyance and the Limestone County Commission to provide adequate public road access across its property. Also, it is good to know that TVA does not object to continued use of the private drives by area homeowners.

This opportunity to be of service is sincerely appreciated, and I hope you will continue to write me on any subject of mutual concern or interest.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Jim Allen

James B. Allen

JBA/vh
Enclosure

P.S. Please share Mr. Wagner's response with all those who signed your letter. I have enclosed your map.

Gordon R. Marsh — Limestone County

My comments are about Tract 136. The land mgt. plan will effect me and my neighbors. When the TVA bought part of my Grandmothers land they closed a part of Greenbrier Road. A lawsuit resulted and TVA agreed to build a road to give road access and driveway access to those not on road.

Later, or after some years, the Limestone County Commission changed this road ~~[illegible]~~ and paved it. This made larger front yards and larger driveway accesses. The Wheeler National Wildlife refuge was in charge of this land at this time.

Mr. Tom Atheson told us that the refuge was releasing the land that effected us back to the TVA. The original landowners saw they needed to get the driveways and roadfrontage settled, so a letter was sent to Senator Jim Allen asking for help. We received letters from Jim Allen and Mr. Aubrey T. Wagner. Mr. Wagner's letter assured us of adequate public road access. This letter states that future disposition of this land would be subject to these rights of way.

Mr. Walter Murray, TVA and Mr. Grady Holland came to my home and told me they looked at the problem ~~site~~ sites and assured me the situation was being corrected.

Tract 136 should show these rights of way and each owner should be given the right, <u>and preference</u>, to buy the small strips of acreage in front of our homes.

Thank you,

Gordon R. Marsh
3052 Rockhouse Rd.
Madison, Al. 35758

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
37902

TVA 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLE IN PARTNERSHIP

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUL 21 1975

The Honorable James B. Allen
The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

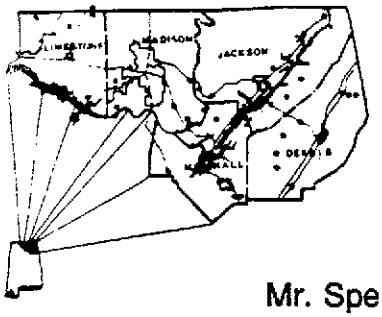
Dear Senator Allen:

This replies to your July 1 referral of a letter from Mr. Joseph S. Marsh, Jr., concerning rights of way over land to be reconveyed to TVA by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

You may assure Mr. Marsh that TVA has no immediate plans for disposal of the property, once reconveyance is completed. We have asked Mr. Walter C. Murray, our Manager of Properties in north Alabama, to contact Mr. Marsh and the responsible Limestone County Commissioners to work out plans for providing adequate public road access across the Government lands. We would expect any future disposition of this property to be subject to these rights of way. In the interim, we do not object to the continued use of the private drives.

Sincerely yours,

Aubrey J. Wagner
Chairman



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GEORGE GRAY, JR.
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STEVE HETTINGER
BILLY G. JONES
WANDA JORDEN
HOUSTON KENNAMER
JOHN LEWIS
L. P. MANESS
JAMES W. MATTHEWS
LILA McCURDY
STANLEY MENEFEE
JAMES PHILLIPS
LOUIS PRICE
BRUCE SANFORD
RICHARD SHOWERS, SR.
ELTON SIMS
THORNTON STANLEY
DAVID STOUT
RANDY TUMLIN
JIMMY WALL, JR.
HUBERT WARD
DAN WILLIAMS
DON WOODLEY

November 29, 1993

Mr. Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader
Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

I have briefly reviewed the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan and offer the following comments:

1. Page 58, 2nd paragraph. There are five (5) counties within the jurisdiction of TARCOG.

2. Same paragraph. "Space Development Initiative (SDI)" should be revised to read "Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)".

3. I am concerned that the report does not address adequately land which should be set aside exclusively for **industries** which need waterborne transportation or which depend on the Tennessee River for large amounts of water for processing.

I believe Hammer and Company received $1.8B for their extensive feasibility study for the Tennessee-Tombigbee waterway improvements. This study noted that northeast Alabama would be a primary beneficiary of the $1.8B canal. It is noted that the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan depicts **one** industrial site within Madison and Limestone Counties. Although it may be some time before we can anticipate a large industry on the reservoir, I believe the TVA Plan should give much more attention to industrial land. This may avert expected adverse reaction to an industrial site when an industry desires to locate on the Reservoir.

The maps which accompany the Plan are very well done. It would be an improvement if another single map could be added showing the entire Wheeler Reservoir and projected land use.

I look forward to attending the meeting in Huntsville on December 1, 1993.

Sincerely

Dean Y. Matthews

Dean Y. Matthews
Executive Director

115 Washington St. S.E., Suite A • Huntsville, Alabama 35801-4883 • Telephone (205) 533-3330 • Fax (205) 533-3442

November 29, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Tennessee Valley Authority
Reservoir Land Management
Natural Resources Building
Norris, TN 37828

My comments are centered around Tract No. 136.

From what I understand TVA purchased this tract and all other tracts to be used as flood protection when Wheeler Dam was built. That situation has not changed in sixty years. If the land was needed then it should be retained today. Just recently, in the past five years, parts of tract 136 were under water. In 1973 parts of 136 were over waist deep in water. How will this tract be made flood free once it is sold? Will a "one way" gate be installed to prevent the river from overflowing on to this tract? Will it be sold with the understanding that it floods?

Mr. Boardman, one portion of Tract 136 is very much like Tract 113. Tract 136 is also susceptible to flooding and is often wet. Adjacent land use includes agriculture. A moderate amount of small game currently occurs. Tract 136 is also best suited to forest and wildlife management.

I realize that homeowners are currently using some of this property for driveways. This situation was an agreement between the property owners and Wheeler Refuge. This was agreed to before 1975.

My suggestion is to deed the property owners the use of the driveways and keep Tract 136 in its present state.

Jim Newman
2773 Towe Road
Madison, AL 35758

1020 Jackson St., SE
Decatur, AL. 35601
November 30, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Land Use Specialist, Land Planning Staff
Tennessee Valley Authority
125 Natural Resources Blvd.
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

The following written statement is provided to document my planned oral remarks at the TVA Wheeler Basin land use hearing, November 30, 1993 at Clements High School

Approximately twenty years ago I purchased two lots in the Hampton Campsite development on the East side of Elk River, which is part of the Wheeler Reservoir, lot #8 in the initial development and lot #16 in Addition One. At the time I purchased these lots, they were advertised as "the last waterfront property to be available on Elk River". The following conditions for use were explained by the seller (Leo Hampton).

1. TVA owned and retained control of a narrow strip of land between my lots and the lake.
2. I had access to the lake across this strip, to the same extent that my lots bordered the strip.
3. No permanent structures were allowed on the land controlled by TVA, and no large trees were to be removed.
4. Plans for piers, docks, and/or boathouses had to be reviewed and approved by TVA prior to construction.

It was my understanding that, subject to the above conditions, easements would be granted by TVA to property owners adjacent to the strip of land so that they could use their property for its intended purpose, that is, as "waterfront property", just like other residential developments on the river.

For the last twenty or so years, TVA actions have been consistent with this understanding, as a number of property owners have received TVA approval, and have constructed docks, piers, and boathouses in this area. TVA's actions have established a long-standing precedent which is proposed to be reversed.

I have looked forward for years to the time when I could retire and build a retirement home on one of my lots. That time is approaching , and as I began to make plans I was informed by Mr. Danny Johnson of your Florence office of the updated TVA land use plan being developed for the Wheeler Reservoir. I was also advised that permits for new piers, docks, and/or boathouses will not be granted, pending the results of the study. He further informed me that the draft report recommends no more piers, etc. be approved in the future, and that those existing might have to be removed. These comments are confirmed in the draft report.

I have long been an admirer of TVA, and of its contributions to economic and environmental progress in the Valley. I was impressed by the background data in the draft report which documents a long-standing cooperative effort by TVA and valley residents to improve the quality of life in this area. It is difficult for me to believe that TVA, with its history of cooperative effort within the valley, would even consider unilaterally reversing an understanding that has existed for many years, severely damaging a number of the citizens you have worked so hard and long to help.

A commercial map of the Wheeler Reservoir which is sold locally shows by color shading the property still owned by TVA, which I understand totals on the order of 30,000 acres. The area of concern to me, on the east side of Elk River, upstream from the Highway 72 bridge, and addressed as Tract #28 in the draft study is barely discernible on the map, being shown by a thin red line. This small strip of land can in no way be as important to TVA, or "the common good", as it is to the adjacent property owners who have existing structures or long held plans for enjoying the waterfront in this area.

I earnestly request that you reconsider the land use plan for the Hampton Campsite area, and that your plan allow continued use of this property as a private residential waterfront area, subject to conditions which will preserve the visual beauty of the area. Such conditions could be jointly developed by TVA and selected representatives of the adjacent landowners, and could include guidelines for paths or walkways to the water, and construction of piers and related waterfront structures.

I and my fellow landowners share TVA's interest in preserving the visual integrity of the area, will be glad to meet with you and discuss alternatives to the land use recommendation which will allow continued access to the waterfront by adjacent landowners while preserving the natural beauty of the area.

You may reach me by phone at 205-355-0564 during the day, or at 205 355-0564 in the evening. I look forward to a positive joint effort. By working together on this we can preserve the long standing cooperative effort in this small area of the reservoir, and avoid costly and time-consuming legal and political actions.

Yours Sincerely,

James C. Hughes

Hello. My name is Jeff Heller, and I am here tonight to speak with you about Tract 28 in the TVA land management plan for Wheeler Lake. I live in the Hampton Campsite Neighborhood which is mentioned in the section on Tract 28. In Hampton Campsites, there are a dozen or so of the prettiest houses you ever did see, most of them waterfront. As one might expect, being waterfront means that these homes were sold for a premium compared to other comparable homes. The value is in the land.

On all waterfront land in the TVA area permits are issued for the construction of facilities and structures to assist in the use of the water, provided that those facilities meet certain guidelines established mainly for reasons of safety. Traditionally, if all of those guidelines are met, TVA, and the Army Corps of Engineers are bound to issue permits for the construction of those facilities. This is how it has always been.

TVA's rivers and lakes are a well recognized transportation route. As such they compete with and also compliment the streets, roads, and highways in the area. One might say that they are roads of water.

Now, according to the information in the section on Tract 28, TVA is supposed to have a moratorium on the issuing of permits to the residents of Hampton Campsites neighborhood. In addition, property owners who have permits will not be able to convey them to subsequent residents; not even by inheritance to their children! This is WRONG, and I have an analogy that will explain why.

Suppose that I own some land,-a farm. Now the only road runs right through the middle of it. I decide that I want to sell half of it. You come along and pay cash for what is prime acreage. After you get your survey, you discover that I set the border line between the properties parallel to the road, but 50 feet away from it. You still got all the acreage that you paid for so we are square on this deal. No problem. On your next visit to the property, however you discover that I have painted orange lines on all of my property, and I will not allow you to put a driveway across it. Can I do that? No! Of course not. That would impose an undue hardship on you my neighbor. Could I tell you that when you sell your land that you will have to take the driveway out? Again no. I am obligated to allow you the right of ingress and egress to your property from recognized transportation routes.

Now I keep my boat and the facilities for its use down on the water. I recognize the river as a legitimate alternative transportation route. It is even conceivable that I might use it economically to make a living. I paid for this feature when I purchased my home. If I am not allowed to sell this feature, then I will definitely be injured financially.

Hampton Campsites was subdivided and developed in 1971 and the lots were offered for sale at a publicly advertised auction. The men responsible for land management at TVA recognized that the land in Tract 28

Rec'd - 11-30-93

was a marginal strip according to their own definitions, and between 1971 and 1988 issued at least 12 permits for the construction of facilities that fit its guidelines. So, for 17 years there was no problem.

Now in those 17 years, the land in tract 28 has not changed physically. The lots in Hampton Campsites neighborhood have not moved or shrunk either. But individuals within TVA are recommending to the board of directors that they change what is being done with the land with no consideration of the rights of the people who live there.

I have an alternative plan for Tract 28. I recommend to the TVA Board of Directors that they Grant to all of the property owners of Hampton Campsites deeded rights of ingress and egress to the Elk River across tract 28. Everyone would recognize that the tract is public property and treat it as such. I can guarantee that I would not cause harm to my neighbors land. This plan will ensure that this never becomes an issue in the future, and that there will be no misunderstandings between future employees of TVA and subsequent owners of Hampton Campsites property This plan would follow the tradition of 17 years of consistency. It would also guarantee that the property values of people in the neighborhood could not be devastated by arbitrary changes in policy. In short, I recommend this plan because it is the right thing to do.

JEFF HELLER
ROUTE 5 Box 371-B
ATHENS, AL 35611

I would like to address some issues brought up concerning TVA's Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan for tract No. 28. It is stated that the granting of private water use permits is not recommended for this area with the goal being visual management. This is a very beautiful stretch and I certainly appreciate that goal. The landowners in the Hampton Campsites Subdivision also appreciate the natural beauty of this area and it is of prime concern to us to maintain this land in a natural and beautiful state. I do not believe the landowners are at odds with TVA's goal of visual management for this tract, nor do I believe that permits for carefully managed private water use for recreation would detract from this goal.

The property owners in Hampton Campsites appreciate the woodland environment along the shoreline and have no intention of cutting trees on the TVA property; on the contrary, our wish is to maintain the rustic woodland character. As to the statement in the plan "protect this visually significant resource for all the public to enjoy instead of a select few", I submit that properly managed use of this shoreline for private water use does not impede the area's scenic beauty and is consistent with the surrounding shoreline development. My husband and I regularly clean up the lakefront in front of our property, this benefits all users of the lake. The public use areas on either side of the Lee Highway Bridge across the Elk River afford easy recreational access to all who wish to enjoy this part of the lake. We truly love and respect Wheeler Lake, and appreciate others who do as well; we pose no obstacle to others' enjoyment of Wheeler Lake.

There is significant shoreline development in the area of the lake around Hampton Campsites, so maintaining a purely undeveloped environment in this area is not possible. Directly across the lake from Hampton Campsites Subdivision is Elk Shores Subdivision, to our north is development along Dement Road, there is significant development along Anderson Creek, to our south is a barge terminal. All of this development can and does exist without taking away from the beauty of the lake. I reiterate, there is no way this area of the lake can have a totally undeveloped look as there is already so much existing development. Based on the current environment, I see no reason why permits for reasonable, modest, privately installed stairs, piers, and docks which are maintained with consideration for the natural environment with respect to erosion, etc. should be prohibited along this tract of the lake. In fact, properly managed trails and stairs along the property fronting Hampton Campsites Subdivision would prevent the erosion that could result from impromptu unmanaged foot paths along this shoreline. This sort of facility could be installed with minimal impact even on the slope of the land as evidenced by trail development in many surrounding areas of rustic beauty such as state parks in Alabama and Tennessee.

REC'D - 11-30-93

Some mention was also made of navigational interference with regard to shoreline development along the Hampton Campsites tract. I assert that this is not the case as the river channel moves more toward mid-river along this area. As I mentioned previously, a barge terminal is our downstream neighbor; this facility is closer to the channel than the shoreline in front of Hampton Campsites; additionally it is very close to the public access area on the eastern shore of Wheeler Lake just under the Lee Highway Bridge over the Elk River where the path of marine traffic tends to be very narrow and concentrated.

In conclusion, restricting the use of the waterfront by landowners in the Hampton Campsites Subdivision and other nearby areas on Wheeler Lake would be an unnecessary and arbitrary step. The restrictions proposed, including denial of future permits and non-transferrability of current permits would adversely affect the property values of landowners in the Hampton Campsites subdivision which in view of the surrounding development would be patently unfair. Landowners in this area should be allowed to enjoy the shorefront just as landowners on other developed areas of the lake are permitted to do; this is not at odds with any other member of the public's use and enjoyment of Wheeler Lake. On the contrary, landowners whose land borders the TVA property on Wheeler Lake can work in partnership with TVA to assure proper land maintenance in the areas of shoreline clean-up and keeping TVA informed of conditions on the land which may need attention. I hope that TVA's Land Use Proposal can be modified to allow landowners and TVA to work in partnership to maintain the beauty and recreational facilities of Wheeler Lake that we can all take pride in and enjoy.

Anne A. Heller
Route 5, Box 371-B
5641 Henry Road
Athens, Alabama 35611

REC'D - 11-30-93

Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan Overview

- Plan is for 335 miles of shoreline (11,284 acres)
  - 1,063 total miles of shoreline in reservoir
  - 505 miles sold or transferred for commercial, industrial, public recreation, or other government agency
  - 219 miles of marginal strip, deeded rights for private shoreline facilities
- 203 Tracts
- Majority of tracts are adjacent to flood areas, wetlands, islands, farmland, or forest land and have no existing shoreline improvements
- Only 3 tracts in plan are adjacent to residential areas
- Only 2 of these tracts have existing permits for private shoreline facilities.
  - Tract #28 - Hampton Campsites Subdivision (31 adjacent lots)
  - Tract #32 - Holland Lakeview Subdivision (7 adjacent lots)

Land Management Plan

- Landowners adjacent to TVA property who are not directly effected by this plan have not been made aware of its existence
- Most of the landowners in Hampton Campsites have had no input into the draft plan
- The draft plan states that the public's opinion was used to develop this plan and references Appendices A and B. These were not provided for review. The public's opinion on which the plan is supposedly based cannot be verified.

Tract #28

- Placed under visual management in plan
- .8 mile long, 50-150 ft deep, 13.5 acres
- .75 mile adjacent to Hampton Campsites Subdivision
- Not identified as "scenic area" in plan
- Deemed unsuitable for general public use due to steep terrain
- Not listed as an area that receives "moderate to heavy use" by the public
- No endangered species/wildlife
- Adjacent to a barge terminal site on the southern end of the tract (a non-pleasing visual structure)
- Adjacent to a subdivision with private shoreline facilities on the northern end of the tract

Proposed Plan for Tract #28

- The planning team has recommended to the TVA Board of Directors a moratorium to deny any future private water use permits on tract #28
- The planning team has also decided that "all existing permits for shoreline improvements cannot be sold, transferred, leased, or otherwise gifted to others, including family members, except spouses."
- The plan calls for placement of a recordable notice in the permittee's property owner's deed file to alert any title researcher or realtor of these conditions.
- If a property owner refuses to allow such notice to be placed in their deed file, TVA will revoke existing permits and require immediate removal of all shoreline improvements at the property owner's expense
- TVA believes this plan will restore this tract to its natural condition by phasing out all private water use facilities

Financial Impact on Hampton Campsites Subdivision Landowners

- Management plan states waterfront lots average $40,000 to $50,000. Waterview lots are worth approximately $10,000. In the proposed plan, waterfront lots in Hampton Campsites will become waterview lots when property is sold or inherited.
- 31 waterfront lots will be devalued $30,000 each
- 11 piers, 3 boat houses, 1 sea wall will be devalued to $0. These facilities are worth approximately $75,000.
- Removal of these shoreline facilities will cost approximately $75,000

Property value loss	$930,000
Loss of shoreline facilities	$75,000
Cost of shoreline facilities removal	$75,000
TOTAL COST	***$1,080,000***

Wheeler Reservoir Shoreline Development

- Until the draft Land Management Plan was published there was no distinction made between any of the tracts of TVA property along the shoreline
- In the past TVA has granted permits to landowners adjacent to tracts #28 and #32 in the same way they have granted permits to other residential areas adjacent to the shoreline. As a result TVA has unintentionally misled these landowners.

Hampton Campsites Shoreline Development

- Hampton Campsites landowners are very concerned about maintaining the beauty of the Wheeler Reservoir. For many of us this is our home.
- Current shoreline facilities do not detract from the beauty of the shoreline
- Hampton Campsites shoreline is underdeveloped in comparison with other residential areas. These other areas still maintain the beauty of the shoreline.
- Further shoreline development in Hampton Campsites can be done with minimal impact on the aesthetics of the shoreline. Further development can be accomplished with little or no tree and vegetation removal.

Proposed Revisions to Land Management Plan

- Hampton Campsites should be given the same rights as other landowners
  - Tract #28 should be added to the existing 219 miles (17,000 acres) of private shoreline development. Landowners in this 219 miles have deeded rights for private shoreline facilities.
  - Deed use of shoreline for tract #28 to the adjacent landowners
- Continue to issue permits for shoreline facilities on Tract #28 as has been done in the past. This includes allowing transfer of permits to new property owners.
  - Incorporate restrictions on future improvements to maintain the beauty of the area

Summary

- TVA will be gaining a 3/4 mile stretch of shoreline and 13.5 acres of land for the "visual enjoyment" of the general public at a cost of over $1 million to less than 31 individuals
  - *$83,000 per acre*
- $1,080,000 for an area that is:
  - Not designated as a "scenic area"
  - Does not receive "moderate to heavy use" by the public
  - Not suitable for public recreation
  - Adjacent to a barge terminal site and privately developed shoreline
- The plan for visual management of this small stretch of shoreline is inconsistent with the plan to add another barge terminal site at the southern end of this tract

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 South Perry Street
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

F. LAWERENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE NUMBER
242-3184

December 1, 1993

Spencer D. Boardman
Project Leader
Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning
Tennessee Valley Authority
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Re: Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan

Upon review of the proposed project, the Alabama Historical Commission has determined the following. The draft more than adequately addresses the. pertinent concerns involving the Wheeler Reservoir cultural resources. Our agency has a long and excellent working relationship with the cultural resources staff of the TVA. We are confident that between their guidance and continuing consultation and the diligence of the planning team, this land management plan will care for and protect the significant historic and prehistoric sites within the Wheeler Reservoir.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

F. Lawerence Oaks

F. Lawerence Oaks
State Historic Preservation Officer

FLO/LAL/gtj

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
& ADMINISTRATION
File # 2147

FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH

FILES

November 1, 1993

16003 Spring Forest Dr
Houston TX 77059

Attention: Spencer H. Boardman, Project Leader

Subject: Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan

Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for the very informative, well detailed plan.

Since I am living in Houston, I find it impossible to attend any of the public review meetings. I do however have a question and need interpretation of the contents.

My concern is with Tract No. 32, Holland's Lake View Subdivision. I own lot no. 5 within this subdivision. Page 272, 1st para. states "All existing permits for shoreline improvements cannot be sold, etc, etc etc".

Does this apply to the improved lots, such as mine (no. 5) because para. 2 (same page) addresses restoring the tract to its natural condition along the bluff.

(over)

This is where I would appreciate a clear understanding.

Does the "no sale, transfer etc" apply to all ~~[illegible]~~ lots within the subdivision or only the bluff lots?

Your response will be greatly appreciated.

Please do not delete me from the Wheeler Mailing List. I am very interested and supportive of the TVA and their concerns since I am planning to retire to Holland's Lake View Subdivision.

Your cooperation is appreciated,

Donald C. Zeek

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2143
DEC [illegible]

FORE
ROZELL-HETHERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
HILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH

FILES

December 2, 1993

FROM: Charles M. Hubbert
1910 Crape Myrtle Green
Huntsville, AL 35803

TO: Spencer D. Boardman
TVA Land Use Planning Group-Wheeler Reservoir
Natural Resources Building
Norris, Tn 37828

Dear Sir,

I was pleased to meet you at the listening session in Huntsville on Dec. 1, 1993. I have been, for some time now, impressed by the weight of the responsibility you bear on your shoulders. Frankly, I was slightly dissapointed to see that you are too young to be a grandfather. Aging and grandchildren give a man a different perspective on life, and what is important in life. It has brought me, for instance, to the point that I believe that the best thing I could do with the rest of my life is work to preserve some of the natural world for the grandchildren of my grandchildren.

If you have any Biology in your background, you know that it is the natural world, the world that God made, that makes this planet habitable by Man. It is not the artificial world-- the foresters world-- the "intensively managed world-- that gives us life and beauty, and inner peace. You and I, right now, are experiencing the move by the forest products(pulpwood) industry to claim the resources of public land. Because of deeply rooted American philosophies we have no means, and no hope of, protecting natural forest on private or corporate land. Only public land, that which belongs to us all, can be protected.

The pulpwood industry will never get enough. They will always want more. As long as there is a mature hardwood acre they will want to cut it. If someone does not tell them finally -- No!, they will eventually get it. That is a large part of the responsibility that rides on your shoulders. Give the people of the Valley something beautiful to see during the coming years, and they will love you for it. Give them "intensive management" and the only thing they will know of you will be the bill that comes at the end of the month, and they will hate you for it.

As for TVA's Forestry Program, give them a real challenge. Let them demonstrate how to rehabilitate a forest that has been overcut. Then they can make a contribution that will really help the world. Let them begin with a piece of land that has been subject to the irresponsible overcutting of the pulpwood industry,

and show how it can be nursed back to a state of ecological health. Let them show how the biodiversity of a natural forest can be re-created, once it has been destroyed by "intensive management". In the long run they too will love you for it, for it will make them real foresters again.

Consider the public concerns and testimony dealing with the chip mill issue, the issue of "demonstration forests" near Guntersville, and what you have heard on this land use plan. Realize that what the people of the Valley are saying is that they don't want any public land used for the purpose of growing pine plantations or any other pulpwood. Understand that we look to you to be the buffer between us and the loss of our natural environment. Some day some President is going to want to sell TVA to private industry, and you will be faced with massive reorganization and the loss of many jobs. Then you will look to the people of the Valley to be your champions. Alright. Then you be our champion now.

II

I seriously question a number of statements in this Draft plan. I will annotate them by page and paragraph, and then present my comment.

1. Page 109, Last paragraph- 1st sentence-"for forest resources production and protection"-- Comment: There is nothing in the TVA Act that states that a goal of the TVA should be to produce forest resources. In fact, it does charge the agency with demonstrating proper reforestation techniques. This quote is not the TVA mission. It is some pulpwood foresters mission. Please correct this.

2. Page 110, bottom of 1st paragraph- "The BMP's"-- Comment: BMP's are not sufficient to protect natural forest. There is no excuse for TVA harvesting from its land by any method more intensive than single-tree selection.

3. Page 112- Comment: All three paragraphs on this page mention management of TVA lands for pulpwood production. We want this not to happen on TVA land.

4. Page 113,2nd paragraph- "...offers best opportunity for intensive management."-- Comment: Lets get "intensive management" out of this equation and manage for conservation.

same paragraph--Comment: "Pine management..."-- All this sentence means is that pine plantations can be manipulated more.

5. Page 115, last paragraph- "Wheelers forest resource provides small portion"-- Comment: Okay. What will we lose by conserving it?

6. Page 116, 1st paragraph- Comment: Please note that the third sentence does not mention public forest at all.

2nd paragraph. Comment: Please note that the third sentence of the 2nd paragraph mentions "hardwood chips for export"-- For export! Alabama may be governed like a third world nation, but the people of the Valley do not like to be treated like a third world nation, and we insist that no TVA forest be available to the chip mill industry. Good Heavens! What can you be thinking about? That is completely antithetical to TVA's land stewardship role. This is a good illustration that economically oriented foresters have far too great an input into long range land-use planning.

7. Page 117-140, Wildlife Section-- Comment: Sometimes clearcuts are justified as creating browse conditions for enhancing deer range. Deer subsist on a diet that is a mixture of browse and mast. A typical Alabama deer range is a radius of one mile. I doubt that there is a deer range in all of north Alabama today that is more than one mile from adequate edge environment to provide browse.

8. Page 141, 1st paragraph- "Environmental quality is an overriding concern..." Comment: I fully concur with this section.

9. Page 186, Objective 10- "To initiate..." Comment: If it is idle agricultural land it is probably already "early successional wildlife habitat". Perhaps some of these places would be good for the Forestry Program to demonstrate how to re-create a natural woodland.

10. Page 187, Objective 11.-- Comment: Lets change Objective 11 to read: "To manage TVA forestlands to perpetuate a healthy and diverse environment." Leave the rest of that off-- it is forester-talk.

11. Page 188, Paragraph 2- "In some locations, new plantations will be established." Comment: No.

3rd paragraph-1st sentence-- "...and demonstration."--Comment: Demonstration of what? How to destroy a forest or how to heal one? Get your priorities in order.

12. Page 201, last paragraph-- Comment: Take a good look at who you are copying. If the visual management system you are using permits establishment of new pine plantations then something is wrong with the system, and you need to develop an improved visual management system for TVA.

13. Page 225, Pine Plantation Management Section-- Comment: Remove this entire section out of the Land-Use plan. Management for pine plantation is not compatible with TVA's other management goals. It is totally unacceptable to us. We hope this change will be made. If it is stuffed down our throat we will fight it. If it becomes TVA policy we will fight TVA--as loudly and vociferously as we can-

- and in every way that we can.

And finally,

14. Page 152, Public Land Stewardship-- Comment: I fully agree with the first two sentences, but the third one should be changed to read "These public lands must be managed to provide benefits to both current and future generations."

What will be in shortest supply for future generations will be natural forest, not toilet paper. Please do not sell off our TVA public land to the pulpwood industry. Please rise to the full capacity of your Stewardship role and say a final No! to the production of pulpwood or wood chips on TVA property.

Mr. Boardman, and other planning team members, The 3,100 members of the Bankhead Monitor cannot accept this draft of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. We feel that it is much to heavily oriented toward the pulpwood and chip industries.

The difference between being a neighbor to the Tennessee Valley Authority, and being a neighbor to Champion International or Alabama Power, is the condition of their forests. If you are going to do the same to your forests they do to theirs, then from our perspective, you might as well be one of them.

We beg you to be partners with the people of the Valley in this matter, and not partners with the pulpwood industry.

Sincerely,

Chas. Hubbert

Charles M Hubbert

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2145
DEC 05 93
FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH
FILES

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge
Route 4, Box 250
Decatur, Alabama 35603

December 2, 1993

Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader
Tennessee Valley Authority
Reservoir Land Management
Natural Resources Building
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Dear Spencer,

Thanks for the opportunity to review the draft Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. The only comment that I have at this time concerns Tract 115 which are islands in the Tennessee River near the city of Decatur. If these islands (Tract 115) are put up for disposal I recommend that they be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and managed as part of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,

H. T. Stone

H. T. Stone
Refuge Manager

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2146
DEC 06 '93

FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH

FILES

Anne A. Heller
Route 5, Box 371-B
5641 Henry Road
Athens, Alabama 35611

December 2, 1993

Spencer D. Boardman
Project Leader, Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning
Tennessee Valley Authority
Reservoir Land Management
Natural Resources Building
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

I have a few more comments to make with regard to the October 1993 draft of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. As a homeowner whose property abuts Tract No. 28, my greatest concern is the recommendation that a moratorium be imposed on future private water use permits as well as the non-transferrability of existing permits described on pages 266-267 of the Plan in the section describing Tract No. 28. On page 267, it is stated that not immediately removing facilities, but requiring removal of the facilities when the current owner sells/transfers their property should minimize hardship on existing permittees. I take issue with the statement that this minimizes hardship as the recommended actions have a significant effect on our property values: so much so that if for some reason I needed to sell my property (loss of job, job transfer, etc.) I most assuredly could not sell my property for enough to allow me to pay off the current mortgage on my property. The property devaluation would be so great that it could result in financial devastation, possibly to the point of bankruptcy, for me and my family. The financial impact is similar for all current landowners in Hampton Campsites Subdivision. Such drastic actions with dire impacts are certainly not necessary when the planned use for Tract No. 28, Visual Management, as stated on page 265 of the Plan can be obtained without imposing those actions. The landowners along Tract No. 28 appreciate the visual beauty and value of this tract and very much want to work to maintain this resource. The history of permits for private water use facilities along this tract having been issued by TVA over approximately a 20 year period (1970-1990) with minimal impact to the shoreline visually or otherwise illustrates the viability and acceptability of allowing such use.

I appreciated your organizing the public meeting at Clements High School cafeteria on the evening of November 30, 1993. I'd like to note that based on comments of the citizens in attendance at this meeting, public sentiment seems to be supportive of residential development along the reservoir while opposing further industrial development. These sentiments were expressed not only by landowners of Hampton Campsites Subdivision, but also by other citizens who are not directly affected by the restrictions proposed for Tracts 28 and 32. When you, my husband and I had a chance to talk briefly after the meeting concerning Tract No. 28, you expressed concern that while current residents of the Hampton Campsites Subdivision whose land abuts Tract No. 28 are responsible and concerned about maintaining the beauty and integrity of this land, future residents may not be so environmentally minded. I mulled over these comments after leaving the meeting and a few thoughts came to mind. Currently, in theory it would be possible for a an irresponsible renegade individual to cause damage to the land along Tract No. 28 (or any other TVA tract) before someone with the authority to take action to stop such damage was aware of the damage being committed. The changes for Tracts No. 28 and 32 outlined in the Plan, including a moratorium on issuing of future private water use permits and non-transferrability of current permits, will not change this situation. I assert that the changes proposed may actually promote such a situation; here is my rationale for this assertion. The current landowners in Hampton Campsites Subdivision take great pride in their land and the Tract No. 28 land which fronts it. These landowners paid a premium for their land with its representation being waterfront with water access. The private water use facilities promote the pride landowners feel and allow access to the shoreline which residents along this Tract take responsibility for cleaning up and maintaining.

Removing the water access would detract from this pride as well as so significantly lowering the property values such that if property in Hampton Campsites is sold, it will be sold at a price much below that which current residents paid for the property. If future landowners pay a much lower price for the property and have no private water use facilities, they will not have the same feeling of pride or level of investment on the property. This could result in TVA's future neighbors along Tract No. 28 having much less regard for this land and greater possibility of misuse/damage to this Tract.

Residents whose land abuts Tract No. 32 as described beginning on page 270 of the October 1993 draft of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan are in much the same situation as the residents in Hampton Campsites Subdivision. The combined areas in Tracts 28 and 32 represent a miniscule fraction of less than 1% (0.150%, to be exact) of the 11,300 acres available to meet future public needs as described on page 26 of the October 1993 draft of the Plan. These Tracts are so small and so totally surrounded by development that development of private water access facilities is of minimal visual impact. The proposed moratorium on permits for private water use facilites and non-transferrability of current permits places a tremendous economic burden on the Hampton Campsites Subdivision Landowners while gaining nothing for the general public. On the contrary, greater gain could be obtained for the general public by continuing to issue permits along these tracts where the permit holders could work in partnership with TVA to ensure proper maintenance of the land. TVA, by continuing to allow private water use facilities, would gain the willing help of this community to report violations along these tracts as well as working under TVA direction to maintain these tracts by promoting native vegitation and wildlife

As an aside, it seems somewhat ironic that such drastic measures are being considered to promote Visual Management/Visual Protection along Tracts No. 28 and 32 while the recommendation for Tract No. 27, the immediate neighbor of Tract No. 28 to the south, is for an additional barge terminal site next to the existing barge terminal site associated with Wheeler Grain Company. This recommendation is made at the bottom of page 264 in the October 1993 draft of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan in the section describing Tract No. 27. This Tract is in the same visual vicinity of the Wheeler Reservoir as both Tracts No. 28 and 32. The current prominent visual feature along Tract No. 27, actually the most visually significant feature in this area of the reservoir except for the Lee Highway Bridge, is a partially submerged barge which was apparently used in the past as the terminal point for docking other barges for loading/off-loading of commodities. It should be noted that this is definitely not a visually pleasing element.

To further illustrate the proximity of the barge terminal to Tract 28 and 32 and give a feeling for development along the reservoir in the immediate vicinity, I would like to use some entries from TABLE IV, KEY RESERVOIR FEATURES BY RIVER MILE on page 42 of the October 1993 draft of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan as well as adding a few more pertinent entries:

River Mile	Reservoir Feature
Elk River 4.8 Left Bank	October 1993 draft of Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan states Planned Use as Minor Commercial Landing (see Tract No. 26)
Elk River 5 Right Bank	Hwy 72 State Rest Area and Picnic Area/State Ramp
Elk River 5 Left Bank	The old Elk River Lodge now operated by state parks (Joe Wheeler Park)
Elk River 5.4 Left Bank	Barge Terminal associated with Wheeler Grain Co. (as well as recommended site for additional barge terminal -- see Tract No. 27)
Elk River 5.5 Right Bank	Anderson Creek along which there is significant residential development
Elk River 5.5 Left Bank	Tract No. 28 which abuts Hampton Campsites Subdivision
Elk River 6 Right Bank	Elk Shores Subdivision
Elk River 6 Left Bank	residential development along Dement Road
Elk River 6.5 Right Bank	Tract No. 32 which abuts residential development

As the above table illustrates, Tracts 28 and 32 are surrounded by residential and industrial development.

I believe the interests of TVA and the general public would be best served by granting deeded rights of ingress and egress to facilitate water access to the landowners along Tracts 28 and 32 with the stipulation of responsible land management along these tracts to maintain the scenic qualities of these areas. This would be consistent with the immediate surroundings and consistent with the more than 20 years of TVA allowing private water use facilities along these Tracts.

Sincerely,

Anne A. Heller

Anne A. Heller

26

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
2101 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD
VICKSBURG MISSISSIPPI 39180-5191

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CELMK-OD-FS (1145a) 2 Dec 93

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, U.S. ARMY ENGINEERS DISTRICT,
NASHVILLE, ATTN: CEORN-OR-F, P.O. Box 1070,
NASHVILLE, TN 37202-1070

SUBJECT: Referral of Action

1. Enclosed is written correspondence from Mr. Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader, Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning, Reservoir Land Management, requesting comments on the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan (encl 1).

2. Since this property is located within the jurisdiction of the Nashville District, we are forwarding this correspondence to your District for response.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encl

JAMES W. HARRISON, P.E.
Chief, Operations Division

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Spencer D. Boardman
Tennessee Valley Authority
Reservoir Land Management
Natural Resources Building
Norris, Tennessee 37828

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
& ADMINISTRATION
File # 2148
DEC 0 5 93

FORE	
ROZELL-ETHERTON	
HARRIS	
McDONOUGH	
FOWLER	
MILLER	
SPENCER	
CURTIS	
AMBROSE	
BOARDMAN	
BENNETT	
FIELDING	
McKIBBEN	
SMITH	
FILES	

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Planning Team
Tennessee Valley Authority

December 2, 1993

Dear Mr. Boardman,

This letter is in response to several comments made by TVA representatives regarding problems in educating the residents of Wheeler Reservoir on proper use of TVA public land.

The majority of abuse of TVA public land in the Wheeler Reservoir that we are aware of seems to be a result of uninformed individuals. The fact is that when people purchase property fronting TVA land they are unaware of the many rules and regulations regarding the proper use of the TVA land. We understand that the manpower required to educate the residents on proper use of this land is in excess of TVA's budget. This problem is likely to continue due to dwindling government funds. We see this problem compounding over the years, and the potential impact on the dwindling public lands in the Wheeler Reservoir could be enormous.

We would like to propose that a volunteer group be formed to assist TVA in several areas. This could be in conjunction with but still separate from the group of volunteers known as "Friends of the Elk River". We propose a "Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Support Group", comprised of several "units" such as the "Elk River Unit". Such a group could assist TVA in several areas: educating the public on the various rules and regulations on proper use of public land; monitoring the Wheeler Reservoir shoreline for violations of regulations; and identifying areas that are experiencing problems such as erosion and silting. Since infractions seem to occur with new property owners, the group could focus on informing new residents of the regulations. Such a group would not, of course, have the authority to enforce any of TVA's rules and regulations. Any infractions noted by members of the group would be reported to TVA for appropriate action. The group could be TVA's "watchdog" for preserving Wheeler Reservoir public lands.

We would also like to propose that residents of Hampton Campsites Subdivision head up an Elk River group. This would of course need to be done with your help to assure that we are educated enough ourselves to carry out such a mission. We believe that TVA can harness the efforts of the residents of this area to work for the benefit of all. We envision recruiting one or two responsible interested individuals from each "neighborhood" along the Elk River to assist in educating their neighbors, particularly newcomers. We feel that this

is the only way to stop the unintentional abuse of public land in the Wheeler Reservoir.

An effort could also be made to distribute information to individuals at the Elk River Lodge and the boat ramps along the river. Informal public gatherings could also be arranged in numerous areas along the river. These are just some of the ideas that we have.

If you are interested in such a proposal, please contact Susan Burroughs at or Penny Cash at . Together, the residents of Wheeler Reservoir and TVA can preserve the quality of the public lands for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Burroughs

Penny J. Cash

16

2009 Clay
Huntsville, Al
35811
Dec 4, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
TVA, Reservoir Land Management
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman,

I am writing as I was not able to attend the meeting in Huntsville this week.

Looking at the graph with allocated land uses, it appears to me that there are no habitat protection areas. I would think that maintaining a healthy ecology ~~in~~ the whole area would be your main goal in Reservoir Land Managment. Hopefully the whole area is a Habitat Protection area ????

I am also concerned with the Forest Pine Management designation. How about a Hardwood Forest designation?

Last, I would hope that safe roped off swimming areas would be part of Public Recreation. It seems to me the Reservoir is geared to cater to people with boats. Not everyone can afford a boat and I don't think there are enough safe swimming areas.

Very truly yours

Mrs. Ferrell Brewer

December 4, 1993

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in response to the recent developments concerning the Wheeler Resevoir Land Management Plan. We, the current property owners of Holland Lakeview Subdivision (Tract #32), wish to advise you that you do not have our permission to proceed with your current plan to remove our water structures by means of placing an instrument in our deed files. We do not wish to have any such agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority on file in our property deed file.

Enclosed you will find a copy of a Declaration of Abandonment for Tract #XWR-202 (Holland Lakeview Subdivision). If you will carefully read this document, it states that TVA did "declare that they have abandoned all present use of, have no further need for, and have no intention of making any further use of the interests and rights described" in this document.

After consulting with an attorney, we find that this is a valid and legal document that can not be altered without our permission. This document was issued when this land was originally sold in 1957. Any sales of any part of this land therafter have been made with this agreement in mind.

We have no interest in altering this 1957 agreement in which your current Land Management Plan is in direct conflict with. We strongly suggest that you read this Declaration of Abandonment carefully and consider it's agreement with the landowners before making any decisions concerning this Land Management Plan.

Holland Lakeview Subdivision should be given the same rights as other landowners. We believe that Tract #32 should be added to the existing 219 miles of private shoreline development. The landowners in that 219 miles have been deeded rights for private shoreline facilities and Tract #32 should be deeded use of shoreline as well. We strongly feel that you should continue to issue permits for shoreline facilities on Tract #32 as has been done in the past. This would include allowing transfer of permits to new property owners.

We would sicerely appreciate a response from you concerning this issue as soon as possible.

cc: Spencer Boardman
Randy McCann
Danny Johnson

Respectfully,

Holland Lakeview Subdivision Residents

Lot 7 Dustin Newton

Lot 8 Lewis E Spiegel
Arell Spiegel

Lots 9 & 10 James E. Lee
Ann Lee
R+3 Box 387-K
Rogersville, Al 35652

Lots 11 & 12 William N. Eaton
Evelyn Eaton

Lot 13 Edna Snider
William R. Snider

730 Cox Creek Parkway
Florence, Alabama 35630
December 4, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Tennessee Valley Authority
Ridgeway Road
NRB 1A
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

I realize no final decision has been made at this time; but from what I can determine, the TVA thinking is to remove all structures on TVA land that borders our lake lots on Wheeler Reservoir. This includes such things as stairs, boathouses, sea walls, etc. This is to be done when the property is sold or changes owners.

The structures were built with TVA's permission and in good faith that they would remain to be used by the future owners. I am sure that you are aware these structures were built at considerable cost to the property owners. Some boathouses were built at a cost in excess of $10,000. Substantial costs will also be incurred for removal of these structures. In addition to the loss of the initial investment to build the structure, it is estimated that our property will be devalued by as much as 30 to 40 percent.

It will be difficult to sell our homes without these improvements. These are our homes, and our life savings are invested in them.

Why should such a drastic step be taken that will affect the lives of so many people? The only reason I have heard is that these changes are supposed to make the shoreline more beautiful. "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." I am sure the property owners will not think it more beautiful.

I also understand businesses along the shoreline will not be affected, and I agree. However, I cannot see why individual property owners should be descriminated against.

We cannot do away with the progress that has been realized on our rivers and try to get them back to their original conditional. I do not think anyone would want this. Just as the dams were built to control the rivers and promote their use, piers, seawalls, boathouses, etc., serve to add to the pleasure of those using the rivers.

cjg (2210)

TVA has done much in the past few years to promote good relations with the people it serves. If implemented, I believe this new policy would tarnish this progress. Please reconsider these actions.

I plan to talk to my neighbors about this matter. If I have incorrect information, or if you can add any rationality as to why you plan to do this, please contact me. My telephone number is

Sincerely,

Tulon C. McRight

Tulon C. McRight

cc: Senator Howell T. Heflin
105 N. Main Street
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674

Congressman Robert E. Cramer
737 E. Avalon Avenue
Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35661

Route 5, Box 371X
Athens, AL 35611
December 4, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Natural Resources Building
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

I prepared the enclosed comments for the public review meeting held at Clements High School on November 30th, but I was unable to attend. If possible, please add them to the proceedings of that meeting.

Sincerely,

H.H. Laubenthal

H. H. Laubenthal

Enclosure

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
2173

I wish to protest the proposed changes in tracts 22, 26, & 27 to commercial use as stated in the draft of the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. Any effort to expand the barge site in Tract 27 would have a serious negative impact on both the recreational and the visual attractiveness of the Elk River. I believe that commercial sites could be found on the Tennessee River that would serve Rogersville and West Limestone County and not adversely affect the public use of the reservoir.

That part of the Elk River from the highway bridge to the mouth is heavily used as a recreational area. There are three launching ramps with parking areas around the 72 highway bridge. This small stretch of the river (approx. 5 miles) serves the people of Athens, Limestone County, East Lauderdale County and 4 or 5 counties in southern Tennessee. People in Athens can go to Decatur but that launching area is small and very congested. Also the lake condition on the Elk are usually more favorable for recreational purposes than on the Tennessee River. This part of the Elk is too small an area to support both recreational and commercial uses.

We all know that exercise and recreation are essential for a healthy life and we also know the importance of jobs, especially in these financial times. I think that TVA should limit the commercialization of this and other reservoirs to those industries in which barge transportation is a clear advantage over rail and highway.

Mr.Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tenn. Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Rd.
Morris Tn.-37828

Dear Spencer:

Some of my good neighbors are really disturbed and upset about the thinking coming out of your department.

While I am less effected than others I can sympathise with them when I hear what is reported coming about your your land plans.

I wonder if Mr. Boardman has looked at the Grainery lately. Its not necessary to view on the site. You can see from miles away. Is this what you have in mind to improve Elk river.The farmers wanted it and you wanted it. You railroaded it against our wisishes. Every one was informed that it could blow up. Did it blow up? Is any one using it?

Your plans are repulsive to the thinking of all the retired people who spent thier money and labor to have a place to get away from the crime riden cities.

I hope this letter will discourage any of your reported plans that I have received. Think about it. We all stand to lose millions of dollars on our land.homes,camps and piers as they deterate in value.

You may be influenced by selfish interest as the selfish interest was about the Wheeler Grainery. We are the retired ones that have served our lives in labor and we deserve some respect.

Sincerely

A V Nygren

A.V.Nygren (Retired and 92 years old and Dean of
Box 369 Rt.5 The Anderson clan).
Athens Al.
35611
&29-8570

Dated December the 6th 1993

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2174
DEC 10 '93

FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH

FILES

December 6, 1993

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my concern over the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan (Draft). Most of the plan has some good points, but we have concerns about the increase in industrial development and the plan to remove all piers, boathouses, seawalls, etc. from the shoreline adjacent to Hampton Campsite Subdivision and Holland Lakeview Subdivision on the Elk River.

Hampton Campsite Subdivision has its own natural seawall along its steep slopes. Due to the steep slopes, all the existing piers and boathouses are very small and do not block any access. Fishermen like fishing around these piers. Removing the piers and boathouses would have a large negative impact on people's investment or property values. There are several new houses built along the bluff and it would hurt their investment. As well, as other property owners along the Elk are concerned about their access being changed also. Home owners along the river do a great deal to keep the waterways clear of debris, logs, etc to improve the navigation of the river.

We have seen an increase in the fowl population in the last two years in this area of the river. The geese population has really increased. We have observed some new breeds of ducks in and out of the area

We would like to see the water levels held up for longer periods of time - earlier in the spring and later in the fall. On the Elk above the Hwy 72 bridge it is more difficult to navigate once the water level is dropped. We need help in getting the logs and debris removed from the main channel.

Our main concern with the plan concerns revoking permits for shoreline facilities for private residents. This will not only devalue property, but will also restrict our ability to enjoy the recreational benefits of the river.

Please revaluate your plan. TVA still owns enough undeveloped land along the river to develop industrial areas without impacting current property owners.

Sincerely,
Diane and Ralph Scogin

James D. Shown, D.C.

December 6, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN. 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

It has been brought to my attention about the plans that you are considering for parts of Elk River under your Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan.

At this moment, it does not directly affect my property, as it is just north of the Hampton Campsites Subdivision, but if you can do that with their property, what is to prevent you from adding additional sites to this later? Also, to me, it is completely unfair to devalue these peoples property by preventing them from putting in a pier or selling their property and the piers being removed at that time.

You state that you want to put the property back to its original beauty but at the same time are considering adding a second barge terminal and a commercial landing which is beyond my understanding.

I trust that you will reconsider the purposed changes stated above for the sake of all the landowners along Elk River. I know of noone that does not maintain their property to the best of their ability and attempt to keep it at its natural beauty.

Sincerely,

James D. Shown, D.C.

JDS/jks

HIGHWAY 72 BY-PASS WEST ATHENS, ALABAMA 35611

PROPERTY MANAGE & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2167
UEL
FORE
HARRIS
McCONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH
FILES

Alabama Department of Economic And Community Affairs

JIM FOLSOM
GOVERNOR

DAVID HOOKS
DIRECTOR

December 7, 1993

Mr. Spencer D. Boardman, Project Leader
Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning
Tennessee Valley Authority
Reservoir Land Management
Natural Resources Building
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

Re: Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan

I have reviewed the referenced document and concur in its recommendations regarding the recreational use of affected lands and waters. The plan also appears to be in substantial compliance with the priorities identified in the Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

I am particularly pleased to see the plan explicitly recognize Flint Creek as a recreational river corridor. However, more attention should be directed toward development of linear parks that connect two or more recreation areas, e.g., camp grounds, overlooks, picnic sites, historical/cultural areas, etc. throughout the Wheeler Reservoir planning area.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your planning process. Please let me know if I can provide you with additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

J.C. Strickland

Jon C. Strickland
Recreation Programs Coordinator

401 Adams Avenue • Suite 580 • P.O. Box 5690 • Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690 • (205) 242-5100

December 7, 1993

Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828

RE: WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT
ELK RIVER DRAFT OCTOBER 1993

Dear Mr. Boardman:

I am a lake-front property owner on Elk River in Lauderdale County. My property is located around river marker 5.5. I am disappointed to find that TVA is, once again, attempting to expand the property of Wheeler Graniery. Wheeler Grainery is an eye sore and a navigation hazard in its present state of repair. This grainery was not wanted by property owners when the permit was issued. Please don't make a greater mistake with another bad decision. Restrict commercial river traffic to the Tennessee River where river traffic is desired.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Gray
1102 Clubview Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35816

REG/pm

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2176
DEC 20 93

FORE
ROZELL-ETMERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH

FILES

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828

December 7, 1993

Dear Mr Boardman;

I was completely shocked to hear of TVA's plan to discontinue issuing permits for property owners to erect piers, sea walls, boat ramps, and boathouses on the Elk River. to make matters much worse, TVA intends to require that all such structures be destroyed when the property is transferred from one owner to the next.

My wife and I have used our entire life's savings to purchase water-front property on the Elk River. for us, this has been a life time dream come true. we have erected a small pier and boat ramp for private access to the Elk River. we intended to use this property for the next ten (10) years and then sell it before my death, at that time we will desperately need the proceeds from this sale to provide for us during our last days.

If the TVA plan is implemented as described, our property value will be destroyed and "water front" property will no longer be marketable as such, there will be a devestating reduction in the value of our homes.

PLEASE, PLEASE reconsider this plan. hunderds of property owners and neighbors are in a state of shock and panic about TVA's proposed plan.

Please do not force this new TVA Natural Resources plan on me, my wife and our neighbors. we beg and plead for your reconsideration.
Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely
Roy A. Elkins
Roy A. Elkins
Rt. 3 Box 349
Rogersville, Al 35652

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2175
DEC 10 '93
FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH
FILES

Dear Spencer Boardman,

I am a Anderson Creek owner and live here full time!

I do not like another barge terminal on Elk River. It should be limited to Tennessee River.

We were afraid the one terminal would lead to other. I did not like it there then and now to have another one!

We have been

recreational places left now so why come to this side of the bridge –

I hope you will not let this happen on the Elk River again!

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2172
DEC 10 93

FORE	
ROZELL-ETHERTON	
HARRIS	
McDONOUGH	
FOWLER	
MILLER	
SPENCER	
CURTIS	
AMBROSE	
BOARDMAN	
BENNETT	
FIELDING	
McKIBBEN	
SMITH	
FILES	

Ada Cook
Rt. 3, Box 32KB
Pagewville, Al
35652

December 7, 1993

Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828

RE: WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT
ELK RIVER DRAFT OCTOBER 1993

Dear Mr. Boardman:

I am a lake-front property owner on Elk River in Lauderdale County. My property is located around river marker 5.5. I am disappointed to find that TVA is, once again, attempting to expand the property of Wheeler Graniery. Wheeler Grainery is an eye sore and a navigation hazard in its present state of repair. This grainery was not wanted by property owners when the permit was issued. Please don't make a greater mistake with another bad decision. Restrict commercial river traffic to the Tennessee River where river traffic is desired.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Gray
1102 Clubview Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35816
(205)890-9066

REG/pm

8 Dec 1993

Tennessee Valley Authority
Reservoir Land Management
Natural Resources Building
Norris, Tennessee 37828.

Re: Public Meeting at Huntsville, 1 Dec 1993.

Dear Sirs:

I was somewhat taken aback when asked to indicate on the registration card whether or not I desired to speak. I unwittingly took the 5th amendment, since I had no prepared statement, and kept my word.

I would suggest some other appropriate method such as a "speaker sequence list", with some flexibility, to allow anyone to comment after all on the "speaker sequence list" have had their say.

Here are my comments on the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan:

1) It is encouraging that activities, unrelated to water use, have been denied permits to develop on TVA land. I suggest the golf courses should be considered as projects unrelated to water use and denied permits also

8 Dec 1993

enneesee Valley Authority
eservoir Land Management
atural Resources Building
orris, Tennessee 37828.

e: Public Meeting at Huntsville, 1 Dec 1993.

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) It is encouraging that activities, unrelated o water use, have been denied permits to develop on TVA land. I suggest the olf courses should be considered as projects unrelated to water use and denied permits also

2) Prohibit development of overnight lodging for humans on TVA Property. Leave as much shore line habitat for wild creatures that cannot live anywhere else. Then all humans can go there to enjoy viewing those creatures.

3) Take a hard look at the number of wet boat storage units with the idea of establishing some numerical limits and also establishing ~~at~~ size limits of pleasure craft used on inland waters, such as TVA lakes.

4. Keep as much of TVA land in natural vegetation as possible. This ~~will~~ will reduce siltation and non-point pollution

5 Where agricultural land is leased, require judicious use of chemicals, and establish holding ponds to reduce non-point pollution from row crops and live stock runs.

Sincerely & Thanks
Leroy S. Heston

cjs (2195)

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2189
DEC 1 3 93
FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH
FILES

December 8, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

It has been brought to my attention that TVA is in the process of implementing a Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. The act of planned commercial development of areas of the Wheeler Reservoir is commendable. To the extent that this planned development modifies, deletes, or prevents use of these resources by present or future land owners concerns me very much. I was not opposed to granting a permit for the Wheeler Grain terminal. I felt that this industry could coexist with public use of the river. As it turned out, there have been no adverse effects, with the exception of a burnt grain odor for several weeks. The rusting barge does add to the scenic view. Now, it is my understanding that TVA is planning to remove all personal and public property from the shore line above this area and turn it into another barge terminal. With all the undeveloped shore line available below the Elk River bridge, how can you (TVA) have the gall to suggest a reduction in use of privately own property to further commercial development. Use the property on the East bank below the bridge for commercial development.

I don't see any indication in the plan for improving the depth of channels in Anderson Creek and other areas of Elk River. How about recommending that some of the dead trees and other obstruction be cleared from the river. This could save some boaters a lot of money. Using my tax dollars (TVA is funded from tax dollars) for improvement of this type should be considered in any Reservoir Management Plan.

I feel that the plan should not have an adverse effect on present or future use of privately own property. I am opposed to any plan that imposes restrictions of this type on land owners.

A land use plan can be implemented that will allow for development of commercial interest without having a negative impact on the private land owner. I do not feel that the plan accomplishes this end. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely;

Erwin E. Johnson, Jr.
Rt. 3, Box 324 D
Rogersville, AL 35652

Erwin E. Johnson Jr.

Dec 8 1993

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2188
DEC 13 93

FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH
FILES

Dear Sir

I reside in Anderson Creek Estates and have a personal interest in the planned usage of Elk River.

I objected to the Wheeler Grainery some year ago but lost the battale in open meetings. The most unsightly thing on Elk is the moored barges which are not now utilized. Why promote more of the same? We do not need industry on Elk. The property adjacent to Highway 72 bridge both north and south is beautiful; lets leave it as is. Some uniform code for piers, boathouses would be nice.

Bill Cook

William H. Cook
Rt. 3, Box 324B
Rogersville, AL 35652

December 8, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

It has been brought to my attention that TVA is in the process of implementing a Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. The act of planned commercial development of areas of the Wheeler Reservoir is commendable. This Land Management Plan proposes to modify, delete, or prevent use of these resources by present or future land owners. This fact concerns me very much. Present property owners have no recourse. I was not opposed to granting a permit for the Wheeler Grain terminal. I felt that this industry could coexist with public use of the river. As it turned out, there have been no adverse effects, with the exception of a burnt grain odor for several weeks. The rusting barge does add to the scenic view. Now, it is my understanding that TVA is planning to remove all personal and public property from the shore line above the Wheeler Grain dock and turn the area into another barge terminal. With all the undeveloped shore line available below the Elk River bridge, how can you (TVA) have the gall to suggest a reduction in use of privately own property to further commercial development. Use the property on the East bank below the bridge for commercial development.

I don't see any indication in the plan for improving the depth of channels in Anderson Creek and other areas of Elk River. The removal of dead trees, stumps, and other obstruction from the river could save some boaters a lot of money. Using my tax dollars (TVA is funded from tax dollars) for improvement of this type should be considered in any Reservoir Management Plan.

I feel that the plan should not have an adverse effect on present or future use of privately own property. I am opposed to any plan that imposes restrictions of this type on land owners.

A land use plan can be implemented that will allow for development of commercial interest without having a negative impact on the private land owner. I DO NOT feel that the plan accomplishes this end. Therefore, I am against the proposed plan as presently written. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely;

Edward E. Mills
Anderson Creek

(223b)

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton H. Cash
590 Carriger Road
Hazel Green, Al. 35750
December 9, 1993

Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you in regards to the Tennessee Valley Authority Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan (Draft), dated October 1993.

As a property owner in Anderson Creek Estates, we are strongly apposed to the above plan. My husband and I have owned said land since 1977. We feel your plan would greatly reduce the value of our waterfront property and it would restrict our enjoyment and recreational activities for us, our children and grandchildern. There are no benifits to TVA or to the public to be derived from this plan.

Sincerely.

Mrs. Carlton H. Cash

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton H. Cash

cjg (2205)

December 9, 1993

Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
ATTN: Mr. Spencer D. Boardman
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

I attended the meeting held in Decatur on December 2, 1993 and thought you and your team conducted a very good meeting. However, I have a few things that I would like your people to reconsider concerning Freeman Acres Tract 10 before your final plan is submitted.

1. My wife and I purchased our home in Freeman Acres in 1977 and we were told that Mr. Freeman and TVA had a verbal agreement whereas property owners could keep the property you refer to in Tract 10 mowed in order to keep snakes and mosquitoes to a minimum and to also have access to the lake area. Since Mr. Freeman has since passed away I guess TVA has seen fit not to abide by that agreement. This, I think, is wrong and should be honored by TVA. We bought our place to enjoy in our retirement and then something like this happens. We are citizens of the good ole USA and taxpayers who actually own TVA and should be given a little more consideration. If this plan of yours goes into effect, it will decrease our property value by 60%.

2. The trees you mentioned being cut by a property owner, I cannot for the life of me understand why your people did not collect the money the property owner earned for selling the trees as well as fine him for cutting them. Our problems seem to have begun after the trees were cut. I believe we (all Freeman Acres property owners) are being punished for something that TVA sat back and let happen. I cannot believe this happened.

3. The six (6) acre parcel you refer to on the opposite shoreline is a disgrace to the property owners of Freeman Acres. All types of parties are thrown over there and no one seems to care. We, as property owners have no authority to ask them to leave since they use the road that terminates and TVA doesn't seem to bother with it.

4. We, as property owners, have I think, been more cooperative with TVA than they have with us. If we didn't clean out the trash (logs, lumber, bottles, cans, etc.) no one could even fish along the shoreline. Being a boat owner and a fisherman for many years, I would never think of pulling up to a shoreline covered with undergrowth such as briars, poison ivy, poison oak and dead trees. We have never refused to let anyone use the property and have gotten plenty of compliments on how well it looks cleaned up.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
FILE # 2190
DEC 13 '93
ACRE
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
BOARDMAN
FIELDING
SMITH
FILES

5. I have to take exception to your statement about TVA working with the property owners for 30 years concerning violations and encroachments. From February 1977 when we acquired our home and property, not one representative from TVA ever came to our place until the trees were cut on TVA property. The sixteen (16) property owners along Tract 10 are not rich by any means and most cannot afford the proposal you have offered. We have estimated the initial cost to be $45,000 plus the lease from TVA. This is a very excessive expense to the property owners and I don't believe this is necessary. A boat ramp for every four (4) houses will be more practical.

6. All we, as the sixteen (16) property owners are asking is that we are able to retain the right to keep the property between our property line and the shoreline mowed. Signs could be placed along the shoreline designating the property as TVA property.

Again, I commend you on a very professional job handling the December 2 meeting. All we are asking for is a little respect as taxpayers and property owners. Think of it this way, put yourself in our places and see if you could still make the decision indicated in your plan.

Sincerely,

J.R. Reid

J.R. Reid
11004 Jean Road
Huntsville, AL 35803

30n Shooting Star Tr.
Gurley, AL 35748
Dec. 9, 93

Mr. Spencer D. Boardman
T.V.A Land Management
Natural Resources Building
Norris Tn. 37828

Dear Mr. Spencer:

I am one of the growing numbers of concerned citizens who does not want to see the Wheler Basin developed in any way. This area should be left in it's natural state. This means no more base terminals or clear cuts to plant pine plantations.

I am a member of the Huntsville Chapter of the Alabama Conservancy and our group expresses the same sentiments as well.

cjg (2204)

I hope you will heed this public outcry and work in the best interests of the general public.

Sincerely,

Lynn A. Leach

1

Dolores Howard
P. O. Box 47
Elkmont, Al 35620
10 December 93

Spencer D. Boardman
Tennessee Valley Authority
Reservoir Lands Mgt., Natural Resources Bldg.
Norris, Tennessee 37828

Re: Wheeler Reservoir Lands Planning

Dear Team of Seven,

First let me thank all of you for a job well done. Although I heartily disagree with many issues in this report/draft plan, I also most happily agree and support others. And, of equal importance, you have made me feel like I am actually involved in a process of "we the people". A rare thing in these times of corporate America. I hope all of you have many successful years ahead with TVA and dealing with the public. Thanks again for caring.

Now to the nitty-gritty.

Point 1- Development:

Considering that almost four fifths (4/5) of the original TVA Wheeler Reservoir lands are no longer under TVA management, and in most cases the public will have no options and little input into the final use of these lands, it is of the utmost importance that every remaining foot of the TVA managed one fifth (1/5), be "planned" for the benefit of the public at large. The greatest benefit you can offer for the present is a place to go where development, artifice and contrivance is absent. The best you can do for the future is nothing, except, work very hard to protect our right to do nothing.

I support your 1960 decision to stop all residential development. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, it can be used to plan for the future. As we look back now we see that the best action we could have taken in the past, to best serve the present, would have been to do nothing. No sale, lease or permitting of river-front land for any purpose. Now we can see, that the best thing we can do for the future generation is still nothing. Or almost nothing.

No new industrial development, only reworking, and increasing the efficiency, capacity and safety of existing large development complexes, adding pollution controls and mandates. I am appalled to read that we are considering new industrial complexes, minor commercial landing sites and major development on the river. Why? Who benefits, and for how long?

No industrial waterfront sites, no industrial access, planning for natural lands to serve as buffers is to defeat the purpose of having natural lands. Industry has their share, I'm sorry that it went so fast in past, and that there are now ones who cry lost opportunity/fair share, but for the greater good of the most people, no more industrial development. *- Just say no. You have a mandate from the people, use it.

No more commercial recreational development. Golf courses are an insult to riparian habitat, a plague on water control and quality with all their chemical lawns and artificial green deserts. They serve the needs of only a select few and require large expanses of land to do so. We in the Tennessee Valley have given up enough wetlands to golf courses. *-just say no! Amusement parks, highly commercial recreation and the like are also not a wise choice for natural riparian habitat. Being entirely artificial, they can be placed anywhere, but better by a large highway where the traffic and noise and pollution will not invade the natural life of the river.

Even marinas/boat harbors can be unsightly and polluting, great care and thought should be given to locating them and perhaps it would be wise to keep them small enough to maintain control, oversight and avoid heavy traffic patterns.

Barge terminals. * -just say no. Keep the shore line free from fleeting areas, minor commercial landings and the development that will inevitably follow new barge terminals, and the pollution that always and unavoidably follows, away from the wildlife refuges, the natural and scenic areas. Please, * -just say no, you have the mandate from the people, use it.

Do keep the land natural, undeveloped, and the recreation facilities primitive, low-key, non-commercial. This is a highly valued treasure, what is left of it, and what is left belongs to we the people.

A word about the Elk River/residential problems, I have little knowledge of the situation but could we "grandfather in " the docks and whatevers that do not actually cause a pollution or erosion or some-other problem? A one time only period of checking it all out on an individual site, if constructed and maintained by strictly enforced regulation, with limited access to the residents/friends and family only? And in return, as The TVA has suggested, a note on the deed to warn prospective buyers that the TVA holds the rights. Times change. Anything constructed during this time of discussion or thereafter is no go. No future permits to anyone. Be firm,* -just say no! No one ever said life was fair, it just is, we must learn from the past, correct our course and seek better ways. But most Especially, do not continue to harass these people if you plan minor commercial landing sites, barge terminals or any form of commercial or industrial development with-in miles of them, for in view of the damage that can and will be done by these developments, it is harassment.

Industrial access to encourage development of backlying private property? Why? Please explain? It is hard for me to find any reason for the TVA to be encouraging development on adjoining land. Invite a demand for more barge terminals and access to the river-front we are trying to protect? We can not continue to support activities that are in direct conflict with our stated goals. Where do we draw the line? The less we pollute the air, water, soil with chemicals, noise, what have you, the more natural value we have. The less we develop anywhere in the area the better for the water quality, plants, animals, forests and people. The fewer opportunities we offer for damage, planned or accidental, the better we serve the people. Do not confuse enriching some developer, or a handful of bankers or politicians, with sound economic growth for "we the people" or even suppose that it can be done in an environmental manner. A little research into what developers mostly do in Alabama, maybe everywhere, will show that the people seldom derive long term benefits from development schemes, only degrading what little quality of life was present before, at the people's expense.

To summarize the development section...large commercial artificial recreation development, golf courses and the like, large polluting noisy hotel/lodge complexes, large unsightly marinas/boat harbors on the main river/shoreline; industrial sites, industrial access, barge terminals, fleeting areas, minor commercial landings, industrial access, encouragement of adjoining land development, *-JUST SAY NO! You have the input from the public, use it; you have the vision of hindsight, use it; you have the opportunity...*-just say no.

Say yes to low key, primitive type, recreational development. Say yes to the beauty of natural forested, riverine habitat. Say yes to small, well designed and managed marinas and boat launching facilities, to hunting and fishing and all the activities that are low impact. Say yes to uses that leave options for future land use. Say yes to wildlife, waterfowl, game and non-game animals, small critters and all the tiny parts and pieces that make up the ecosystem.

Which leads us directly to :
Point 2- Natural Resource Management:

Compared to other forest management in our area, and based on the expected norm, TVA has managed its forest lands very well, tried to formulate and mandate good BMP's, allowed longer rotations, thinned and tried to increase plantation health, all good commercial commodity production forestry, but now we expect more. *We need a better example of* forest care, not timber commodity production, let Bowater, Mead, and Champion et al, grow their own trees, on their own land, why should I foot the bill for their corporate profits? We need a demonstration of how to manage to keep a FOREST intact, and cut some trees. We have already seen how to grow tree crops and how to clearcut. Common knowledge!

As TVA foresters and natural resource managers, you have a unique opportunity, not often presented in modern times. It is rare that all the parts come together like this. The sites are here, good sites, often with prime trees already growing, and some stands of planted pine that could become old growth; you have input from the public, asking for native forested lands, and no development on the river; a commitment to work with the public for public values, from policy makers, (at least that is what they say, publicly). If you really want to demonstrate forestry practices, don't show us more crowded, beetle infested, pine plantations, clearcutting and site degradation for replanting. Show us restoration forestry. Help nature evolve into truly spectacular native natural stands. Demonstrate how to manage with nature, not how to control nature. What will have the greatest value in a few more years and forever after, is that rarity, natural scenic beauty, not just buffer strips, planned views, and mitigated left-overs from commercial-industrial development, but real forest land. The evidence is in on intensive, chemical, artificial agriculture, be it row crop or forestry, ..it can not go on forever and you can not build or rebuild soil with chemicals. Soil building takes time and organic matter, protection from the plow, the cow and the ravages of corporate foresters, unskilled loggers and un-informed landowners. There is no better place than a mixed hardwood forest of a very diverse nature, all ages and stages of growth and decay to grow soil. A few very old large planted pine stands scattered here and there probably would not hurt, and would round out the habitat needs of the various critters.

Letting some of the cultivated fields, slowly and naturally follow the natural early successional habit would provide the open spaces. Add a few, small cultivated fields, using the organic farming methods, of soil enrichment with natural compost, no chemicals, and leave the crop for wildlife. Harvesting some high value, quality pines and hardwoods here and there would open things up, let in a little light and assist and speed up regeneration opportunities. Keeping the very minor disturbance on going, when nature fails to act in the desired spot, at the best time, would make it forever. Controlled burns may or may not be appropriate here but are always better than chemicals. It depends on the size, the time, the heat and the reason for the burn.... But I am preaching to the preachers , you guys certainly know these things, do them and by your example, teach us a better way, show that it can be done.

We are often reminded that most of the land in the Tennessee Valley is privately owned, and since this large block of land will mostly determine the health of the watershed, what better service could the TVA offer than a plan, an example of the best watershed management possible. In this way the TVA, and specifically you, the resource managers,and land use planners, will be carrying out President Roosevelt's charge "proper use, conservation, and development of the natural resources for the general, social and economic welfare of the nation.." The more recently stated goals of visual and environmental quality, quality recreation, responsible economic growth, protecting and enhancing forestry, fisheries and wildlife and certainly the protection of the drinking water supply all depend in a large part on you. And we will be following the best advice ever given by a conservationist...which was to "save all the pieces."

Thanks again for this opportunity to speak out on this issue of planning for the future. I would have addressed the forestry issue more completely but time does not permit. I plan to keep in touch and involved every step of the way.

Sincerely,

Dolores Howard

December 10, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
TVA Land Management Division
Norris, TN 37282

Dear Mr. Boardman:

As a thirty-two year resident of Freeman Acres, I am compelled to voice my objection to some of the provisions related to private development listed in the land management plan for Wheeler Reservoir.

My concerns are not centered on the financial impact, although I am certain that property owners who bought in recently face a significant reduction of their individual net worths. Even with recordable notices attached to courthouse deeds, those who wished or had to move will never be able to recover their substantial investment in the shoreline lots.

As a banker, I have witnessed firsthand how unfavorable flucuations in property values have placed even marginal borrowers in precarious situations. I have seen well-respected and experienced businessmen wind up in bankruptcy court due to market factors which negated their financial standings. I would hate to see the same consequence fall upon someone who put their savings in something as fundamental as a homestead.

On the other hand, I do not wish to convey the idea to TVA representatives that current owners expect the agency to subsidize their "extended backyards". However, I find it inconsistent to promote the idea that "casual lake users" would rather have the shorelines grow wild. Those who venture into this channel to fish always do so from our side, rather than across the way where no development is present.

On the topic of erosion, we have an embankment which has evaporated some fifteen feet over the same number of years. I would be willing to pay for added dirt and rock to preserve this point, but TVA will not approve such requests. You can be sure that if the agency begins removal of our ramps (which were OK'ed years ago) that I will possess the same sympathy for that parcel of land which slowly washes away.

There can be no real resolution of this conflict between public and private interests without a provision offering current owners the rights which we have legitimately incurred for the last several years. Of the 203 remaining tracts of TVA controlled land in the Wheeler Reservoir, only three are adjacent to private development. These are tracts 10 (Freeman

(2202)

Acres), 28 (Hampton Campsites) and 32 (Holland Lakeview). These three marginal strips add up to 33.2 acres-roughly two-tenths of one percent of the remaining 11,200 acres retained by TVA.

The simplest alternative, involving sacrifice on both sides, is to provide lease-purchase agreements to property owners of the adjoining lots. I understand TVA's requirement that property sold to the public must faciliate competitive bids. Yet given the small width of these tracts plus the absence of a right of way, my feeling is that these strips carry little economic value to outside developers. Perhaps an arrangement could be worked out involving TVA's board or congressional statute to allow for a fair market rent/price based upon a couple of independent appraisals on these 33 acres.

Once this lease-purchase option was legally in place, owners might be given a choice of an annual rental installment or outright purchase of the riverfront lots. Those who refused to participate in either option would forfeit their rights to the adjoining land; becoming subject to the removal of ramps, boathouses, or floating docks.

Monies collected from property owners could then be used to develop public recreational facilities with the accompanying right of ways and extra space for access and privacy.

This alternative pacifies both public and private concerns, plus it offers protection against falling land values adjacent to TVA boundaries. If the agency will take steps to implement this idea, I am sure that the cordial relationship between property owners and land management representatives can be maintained indefinately, while clearing the remaining TVA lands of this legal dilemma. Otherwise, the present recommendations will serve only to invite conflict and financial impairment.

Sincerely,

Greg Gentry

Greg Gentry

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2191
DEC 1 3 '93
FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
HOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
Mc
SM

10 Dec 93

Dear Sir,

Reference to Tract #10 around mile marker 278, Freeman Acres and Wheeler Dam Subdivision:

I personally don't think the people should have access at their homes because they don't own the land outright. This land belongs to everyone. I have lived in this area most of my life and I just don't think those sixteen families would like it if I was to camp out in that area. I now live in Hartselle, AL and I drive 35 to 40 miles to get to the water in that area, so they could drive 4 or 5 miles to a ramp. Right now there are six unimproved ramps in that area. The TVA has said they could get together and build one ramp but at the meeting in Decatur Mr. Gentry said he would have to build 2 or 3 bridges to get to where TVA will let them put it. Well, I have to cross a few bridges to get to the few public ramps on the south shore of Wheeler lake. So, take it back, clean it up and plant trees so it looks like the rest of the river banks in Lawrence County. I would think everyone of those sixteen families would like the ramp in their area. I would like to see a ramp put in on the south east side of Spring Creek and one at Swope Pond. There is an unimproved one at Swope Pond but there are not any parking places for trucks and boat trailers. It is very difficult to launch a boat there because of the parking problem. At this ramp, the outlet from Spring Creek (2297 ft) has many trees across it and some times it is impossible to get through. When the lake is down, there is no way you can put in at Spring Creek and come into Swope Pond. I fish in this area about 50 times a year. I would like to cut the trees across the ditch and get them out of the way so when the water is up access to Swope Pond easier from the Spring Creek area. I know that more boats would like to come into the Swope Pond but cannot enter because the trees are in the canal.

Sincerely,

Bobby Terry

Bobby Terry
809 Vaughn Bridge Rd.
Hartselle, AL 35640

December 10, 1993

To: Spencer Boardman
TVA Land Management Division
Norris, TN 37828

From: Wayne Gentry
P.O. Box 9
Moulton, AL 35650

1. I am the oldest property owner in Freeman Acres, Tract 10 TVA, and purchased the property in 1958.

2. I have known all problems with land owners and TVA since that time. The biggest problem has been communications. I am sure that Mr. Stows had never been advised about the property in front of his lot when he cut the trees. I also know when Mr. Clevengar purchased his lot, no one told him not to build a retaining wall from his basement, that was on TVA land. No one has ever told me not to mow my yard.

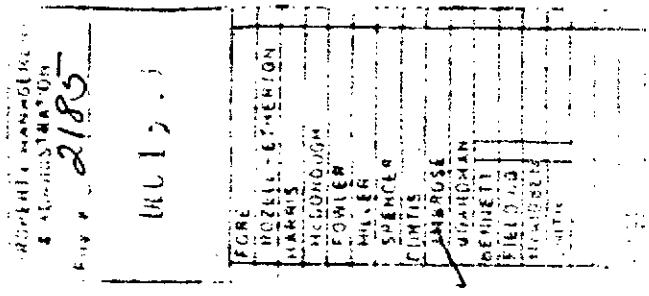
3. Since I have been there I have had church groups use the water for their Baptism service, I have had a church group use the land to camp on and use my home for water and bath. If it had not been cleaned up this could not have been used.

4. In the 60's, I built a walk way and was advised by Mr. Lufer of TVA to remove it and it was removed. I asked to build a ramp and was told not to build it above ground level and no one has ever asked me to move it. It has been used by the public.

5. I think that all 16 property owners are opposed to your plan to have one lot for the group. In my case, I would be 1600 ft. from the lot and would have to build two bridges to get there. The cost of the project to develop the lot would be:

1.	$20,000.00	for the lot
2.	10,000.00	for the road
3.	8,000.00	to build ramp
4.	5,000.00	for pier
	$43,000.00	TOTAL COST

Plus the cost we would have to pay you. Most of the people there are retired or middle class wage earners and could not come up with this cost.



6. If you go through with the plan you have, our property will go down in value by 50% because no one would want to own this property with no water use. I figure the value to be as listed:

1.	16 lots	$20,000.00	$ 320,000.00
2.	Each house	$50,000.00	800,000.00
	Total value as is		$1,120,000.00
	LOSS		$ 560,000.00

This would be a big loss for the property owners just to let the 10 acres grow up with snakes and weeds.

7. You have let most of your land go to industry which is filling the water with pollution and we, as small property owners are taking care of your land better than you do. The 6 acres across from us is being abused by drunks and careless elements that spend the night and raise hell. This is what could happen in front of our homes.

8. There are only three tracts of land on Wheeler that really will effect the lives of a few people; that being, Tract #10, 28, and 32. I really don't see that you need these small tracts and would like for you to understand that you could sell the land to these few or make some concession and still not hurt your land management program. You let people build boat houses on the water that you own that are bigger than my home, and some of them are eye sores up and down the river front.

9. I want to assure you that as a land owner in Tract #10, I will do all in my power to keep you from going through with your program. I know there isn't much I can do with the power that TVA has and I am one that is for free enterprise in this country and feel you are infringing on my rights and I don't like it.

10. I just hope and pray that you will do the right thing about this matter.

Respectfully
Wayne Bentley

Copy:
Sen Howard Baker

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2186
DEC 1 3 '93
FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
MCDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
HICKMAN
SMITH
FILES

December 10, 1993

8001 Shereton Road
Huntsville, AL 35802

Subject: Tennessee Valley Authority, Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan (Draft) Dated October 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Sir:

The experience with the barge terminal site, Track 27, has been all bad. Not mentioned in your plan was the rusty 60-foot barge used as a permanent anchor or the dilapidated condition of grain elevator and area in general. Expanding this area and adding additional development, Track 26, will only add to lake pollution, environmental degradation, and safety hazards. Track 27 is already the worse "eye sore" on Elk River and is located within sight of the Highway 72 bridge and the State Park on the west bank adjacent to the bridge.

The so called visual management is certainly unwarranted. Well maintained piers, boathouses, etc. has minimum visual impact to the area. This is true as a habitat and fishing areas. The worse possible example is Track 28 which is adjacent to the Elk River "eye sore".

TVA <u>must stop</u> the so called visual management efforts fronting Hampton Campsites and Holland Lakeview Subdivisions. We, TVA and its many users and supports, cannot afford the bad publicity and the years of law suits sure to be generated by this potential change of policy. This part of the plan, when combined with other conditions, does not have public support.

Sincerely,

Laudrey E. White

Laudrey E. White

December 10, 1993

Mr. Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
File # 2187
DEC 13 93
FORE
ROZELL-ETHERTON
HARRIS
McDONOUGH
FOWLER
MILLER
SPENCER
CURTIS
AMBROSE
BOARDMAN
BENNETT
FIELDING
McKIBBEN
SMITH
FILES

Dear Mr. Boardman:

It has been brought to my attention that TVA is in the process of implementing a Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. The act of planned commercial development of areas of the Wheeler Reservoir is commendable. This Land Management Plan proposes to modify, delete, or prevent use of these resources by present or future land owners. This fact concerns me very much. Present property owners have no recourse. I was not opposed to granting a permit for the Wheeler Grain terminal. I felt that this industry could coexist with public use of the river. As it turned out, there have been no adverse effects, with the exception of a burnt grain odor for several weeks. The rusting barge does add to the scenic view. Now, it is my understanding that TVA is planning to remove all personal and public property from the shore line above the Wheeler Grain dock and turn the area into another barge terminal. With all the undeveloped shore line available below the Elk River bridge, how can you (TVA) have the gall to suggest a reduction in use of privately own property to further commercial development. Use the property on the East bank below the bridge for commercial development.

I don't see any indication in the plan for improving the depth of channels in Anderson Creek and other areas of Elk River. The removal of dead trees, stumps, and other obstruction from the river could save some boaters a lot of money. Using my tax dollars (TVA is funded from tax dollars) for improvement of this type should be considered in any Reservoir Management Plan.

I feel that the plan should not have an adverse effect on present or future use of privately own property. I am opposed to any plan that imposes restrictions of this type on land owners.

A land use plan can be implemented that will allow for development of commercial interest without having a negative impact on the private land owner. I DO NOT feel that the plan accomplishes this end. Therefore, I am against the proposed plan as presently written. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely;

Forrest E + Helen M. Sure

dec 11, 1993

Spencer L. Boardman
Reservoir Planning Specialist
17 Ridgeway Rd.
Norris, Tenn 37828

Dear Sir:

In reference to past discussion of our and others property bordering shoreline in Freeman Acres, Lawrence Co., Ala, I would like to express my thoughts on this subject.

First of all my father built the access road into Freeman Acres in approx 1955 or 1956. At the time he was a member of the Lawrence County, Al, Board of Revenue (Commission).

I realize rules or opinions can be modified by those in authority. However retroactive to this time, Mr R.B. Freeman, developer of Freeman Acres had an oral agreement with TVA that the residents of

same would have access to the water individually and that we could groom the shoreline if we chose to do so.

We have done so these many years and I am extremely appreciative that TVA has allowed us these privileges. I am, however, disappointed that TVA is now changing their position on this matter.

For the most part, we have abided by TVA rules thru the years. There have been a few violations which I abhor, however I/we cannot correct these past errors.

Our property values will be devastated. Only undesirables will eventually be living there as reasonable persons will be forced to sell at a fraction of the current property values. In addition, the property will be

infested with snakes, mosquitoes, etc., just as it is across the slough, plus it will be very unsightly.

I respectfully submit that TVA reevaluate our position. I also submit that TVA give us liberty to share among our sixteen (16) tenants, a minimum of four (4) launching ramps, not one as is now proposed. Also that we be allowed to mow to the shoreline. I am sure that most everyone involved would be willing to plant an adequate number of tree seedlings to satisfy any that may not germinate from existing trees, whichever kind TVA would require. This would maintain the shoreline as TVA is requiring.

I plead with you, do not take from us what many have treasured there past several years.

Sincerely,

James W Bondell

Thrasher Oil Company
Shell Oil Jobber
612 Wheeler Avenue
Huntsville, Alabama 35804

PHONE 539-2453
P. O. BOX 233

Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman,

I have recently been made aware of the Tennessee Valley Authority Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan Draft Dated October 1993. I believe that some of the proposals contained therein will be a detriment to quality of the reservoir rather than an asset. The deprivation of the present property owners to use the shorelines for boat houses, pleasure boating and swimming appears to be confiscatory, and will cost the owners in the devaluation of their property. Private resident owners will no longer be able to enjoy the reservoir.

While it is nice to have industry use the river, it would be very interesting to know the economic value of the present Wheeler Granary located on Elk river just North of Hwy 72. It appears to be used very seldom. I doubt that the economic impact of it is as great as the pleasure boats and sports boats are in the area.

T.V.A. should reconsider their position on this matter. I think that T.V.A. would find that they should abandon the present Land Management Plan Dated October 1993.

Respectfully,

Tom G. Thrasher

CC: Senator Heflin
Senator Shelby
Congressman Bevill
Congressman Cramer

REC'D - 12-13-93
(2203)

44

LANIER FORD SHAVER & PAYNE P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

200 WEST COURT SQUARE

SUITE 5000

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35801

(205) 535-1100

FACSIMILE (205) 533-9322

REPLY TO:

P. O. BOX 2087

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35804

MILTON H. LANIER
JOE L. PAYNE
WILLIAM T. GALLOWAY, JR.
JERRY B. ANGE
W. STANLEY RODGERS
JAMES E. DAVIS, JR.
JOHN M. HEACOCK, JR.
CHARLES E. SHAVER, JR.
JOHN R. WYNN
THOMAS R. ROBINSON
J.R. BROOKS
WILLIAM B. TATUM
WILLIAM W. SANDERSON, JR.
H. HAROLD STEPHENS
JOE W. CAMPBELL
D. EDWARD STARNES, III
DONNA S. PATE
ROBERT E. LEDYARD, III
RONALD F. SUBER
ELIZABETH W. ABEL
Y. ALBERT MOORE, III

GEORGE E. KNOX, JR.
CLAUDE E. HUNDLEY, III
JEFFREY T. KELLY
JAMES W. TARLTON, IV
KELLY M. McDONALD
APSILAH G. OWENS
ANITA J. KIMBRELL

OF COUNSEL
FRANK McRIGHT

M.H. LANIER (1878-1946)
EARLE R. FORD (1890-1973)
RALPH H. FORD (1916-1986)
JAMES L. CALDWELL (1914-1991)
CHARLES E. SHAVER (1907-1993)

December 14, 1993

Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman:

I have recently been made aware of the Tennessee Valley Authority Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan Draft dated October, 1993. I believe that some of the proposals contained therein will be a detriment to quality of the reservoir rather than an asset. The deprivation of the present property owners to use the shorelines for boat houses, pleasure boating and swimming appears to be confiscatory, and will cost the owners in the devaluation of their property. Private resident owners will no longer be able to enjoy the reservoir.

While it is nice to have industry use the river, it would be very interesting to know the economic value of the present Wheeler Granary located on Elk river just North of Highway 72. It appears to be used very seldom. I doubt that the economic impact of it is as great as the pleasure boats and sports boats are in the area.

T.V.A. should reconsider their position on this matter. I think that T.V.A. would find that they should abandon the present Land Management Plan dated October, 1993.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Shaver, Jr.

CES,jr/dp

cc: Senator Heflin
Senator Shelby
Congressman Bevill
Congressman Cramer

(2238)

45

NAIDA

AmSouth Bank Building / P. O. Box 1668 / Decatur, Alabama 35602 / (205) 353-9450 / FAX (205) 353-5982

December 17, 1993

Mr. Spencer D. Boardman
TVA, Reservoir Lands Planning
Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828-2012

Dear Mr. Boardman:

NAIDA represents TVA distributors and TVA Industrial Development in Alabama. We have reviewed the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan and are in general agreement with its conclusion. There is a small percent of the total 11,000 acres that is being reserved for industrial development.

Sheet 1 of 7, tracts 12-13-14 have been shown to industrial prospects in the past. We believe that there is sufficient privately owned back land to warrant industrial use of all this property (tracts 12-13-14).

Industry has become more environmentally conscious of lands under their control. It is to their benefit to keep the removal of natural habitat along the river to a minimum.

We request that consideration be given to land plan tract 13 for economic development as is tract 12 and 14.

Sincerely,

Mike Roberts

Michael D. Roberts
Associate Director

MDR/bl

cy (2246)

10017 Greenview Drive
Huntsville, AL 35803
December 21, 1993

Owners: Lot 50B
Elkshore Subdivision
Lauderdale County

Spencer Boardman
Reservoir Land Management
Tennessee Valley Authority
17 Ridgeway Road
Norris, TN 37828

Dear Mr. Boardman,

We are writing in reference to the TVA Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan (draft) dated October 1993, with particular concern about paragraphs referring to tracts # 25, 26, 27, and 28.

As affected residents, we are very dismayed that we were not notified of this draft or of the public meeting at Clements High School on November 30 instead of accidentally learning of it ten days after the deadline for filing comments/complaints.

It is extremely difficult to grasp the reasoning of TVA in developing the Elk River for industrial use when the Tennessee River is much more suited for barge traffic. Barge traffic on the Elk will not only create a safety hazard, but will virtually ruin recreational use of the river as we now know it. It will become merely another waterway to get from one place to another.

Confusing also, is the idea of "maintaining the visual integrity of the shoreline" by removing piers, boathouses, etc., and putting up large unsightly barge terminals. As written in the paragraph referring to tract #25, coves do provide excellent sport fishing for largemouth bass. In some months, however, piers and boathouses provide just as much cover for fish. These structures certainly blend with the shoreline and maintain its "visual integrity" more than barge terminals and their accompanying activity.

When Elk River residents bought and developed their waterfront property, it was believed that paying a premium price was justified since the resale value would not drop. With these proposed changes, and who knows about later development, residential properties will surely decrease in value. Who would want to spend their golden years just sitting in the shade counting barges as they make large waves against the shore.

12/29/93 (2268)

In developing their land, residents were granted TVA's approval for piers, boathouses seawalls, etc. It was naturally assumed that those permits would not soon be revoked. The expensive improvements to TVA land, built to TVA specifications, were made to last several decades.

We hope our concerns will be considered in TVA's decision of the future development of Elk River. It is now a lovely, gentle waterway, used by young and old, families and sports fisherman, refuge to wintering fowl and home to many summer birds, and we **all** must protect it from encroachment by industry for our future generations. The Tennessee is the river of choice for industrial growth.

Please include our names on your mailing list for future information concerning the Elk.

Sincerely,

JAMES E. MILTON, JR.

CAROL C. MILTON

Copy to:
Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Howell Heflin
Representative Bud Kramer, 5th District

January 10, 1994

Dear Mr. Boardman:

I am sending you a layout of driveways and plots of land adjoining Tract 136, that each land owner would like to purchase, if you recommend to the TVA Board to sell.

I have talked to all of the land owners and they think this tract should be handled the same as Tract 113. Portions of this tract is susceptible to flooding and because of adjacent land use and the vegetation that occurs on this tract, we think it is best suited for forest and wildlife management.

We would like very much for you and your team to recommend to the TVA Board to keep the tract.

Please advise me of any other developments

Sincerely,

Joe S. Marsh, Jr.

Joe S. Marsh, Jr.
2778-S.W. Rockhouse Road
Madison, Al. 35758

jr. 1/13/94, (59)

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendix A: Public Participation

Site Specific Issues

Section VII

Site Specific Issues

Introduction

Several difficult-to-resolve issues surfaced during the Wheeler Reservoir land management planning process. These issues were of significant importance to the parties involved and to TVA. In all of these cases, the dispute centered on the interpretation of land rights and the legal basis for deciding whether or not to allow private alteration of public land. To focus attention on resolving these issues, site specific meetings were held as needed until resolution was reached.

In addition to these site specific issues, land use requests were made during the course of the planning process. These were resolved through a variety of individual meetings, site visits and correspondence.

Section VII includes:

- A summary of major site specific issues
- A summary of land use requests made during the land allocation process

SUMMARY OF SITE SPECIFIC ISSUES

Summary of Major Site Specific Issues

Site Name	Issue	Plan Tract	MAJOR Meeting Dates
Cotaco Creek	Property damage from flooding	140-153	6/19-20/91
Freeman Acres	Private use of public lands	10	1/12/93 9/28/94
Hampton Campsites	Water use facilities permitting Industrial/residential land use (visual)	28	2/3/94
Holland Lakeview Subdivision	Water use facilities permitting	32	2/3/94
Marsh family and neighboring property	Private access across public land	134,135	12/1/93

SUMMARY OF LAND USE REQUESTS

Summary of Land Use Requests

Request/Proposal	Location	Tract Number	Plan Recommendation
Athens State College: Environmental Awareness Research Center/Field Station	U. S. Highway 31, abandoned roadside park, south of Athens, AL	112	Yes
City of Hartsell and Morgan County: Canoe access and small park development (former wayside park)	Northeast of Woodall Bridge on Highway 36 and Flint River Mile 20.1 right bank	130	Yes
Lacey's Spring Community Association: Request for recreation area and lake access	TRM 330 left bank[1]	161	No
Lawrence County Commission: County Park, recreation development	Old Lawrence County Park ("Lock A site"), Goldfield Branch and Spring Creek	73-76	No (Core team recommended alternate site on Spring Creek)
Lawrence County Industrial Air Park: Ramp facilities for amphibious aircraft and ultra light airpark	East Bank of Spring Creek	Abutting 70	
Lucy's Cemetery Request for deed of title and easement of access for Little Elk Church	Lucy's Branch Embayment	78	Yes
Madison County: Canoe access, parking, changing room, and trail head	West of Hobbs Island River Bridge, Flint River	182	Yes
Madison County: Canoe access on Cloud Cove Road at existing informal boat ramp site	Via Cloud Cove Road on Flint River mile 2.8 left bank	'76	Yes

[1] Tennessee River Mile (TRM)

Summary of Land Use Requests

Request/Proposal	Location	Tract Number	Plan Recommendation
Madison County Department of Planning and Economic Dev't: Long distance walking trail	Enter TVA at tract 183 and South along west bank of Flint River	183	Yes
Morgan County Industrial Development Association: Industrial corridor	Mallard-Fox Creek wildlife management area	C8 (Not plan land)	Yes
State of Alabama: Long-term tenure on Mallard-fox Creek for a state wildlife management area	TRM 292-297	(Not Plan Land)	Approved as long-term wildlife management area
Tennessee Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council: Environmental Education area for taking water samples; involves boardwalk, school bus parking	Flint Creek Mile 16.7 right bank	Tract 129 & 128	Use of Tract 128 recommended
Tennessee Valley Waterfowl Association: Waterfowl restocking and release program	Old fish hatchery site on Elk River	62	No
West Morgan-East Lawrence Water Authority: Water Intake and treatment facility	Between Champion Paper and the mouth of Spring Creek	64	Yes

WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendix A: Public Participation

Modifications to Final Draft Plan

Section VIII

Modifications to the Final Draft Plan

Introduction

The final step in the Wheeler Land Management Plan public participation process was to make modifications based on public input and review of the final draft plan. These modifications reflect TVA decisions regarding requests for land uses different than those originally allocated in the Draft Plan. Some of the changes were made as a result of the site specific negotiations described in Section VII. Others were based on more easily resolved requests, or resulted from knowledge gained from improved/updated data.

The Wheeler Land Management Plan was approved by the TVA Board on December 13, 1995. Following Board approval, a pre-distribution letter was mailed to a list of 728 active participants. Recipients were asked to indicate desire for a copy of the final plan by returning a business reply post card. The final draft plan was mailed to 416 citizens on May 22, 1996 and 72 TVA associates on May 23, 1996.

Section VIII includes:

- A listing of the major issues raised about land allocations on the Wheeler Reservoir and the resulting modifications to the Final Draft Plan.
- The February 6, 1996 pre-distribution letter with business reply postcard.
- The external letter and the internal memo of transmittal for the final Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan

LAND ALLOCATION ISSUES AND RESULTING MODIFICATIONS TO THE FINAL DRAFT PLAN

Modifications to the Final Draft Plan

Freeman Acres

Original Planning Recommendation: To remove all encroachments and violations—including private boat ramps—and to replant vegetation on the shoreline in order to reestablish the property as public land rather than extensions of private yards.

Final Plan: A compromise was reached for adjacent land owners allowing for a mowed pedestrian corridor on TVA property to provide a clear access to a community boat ramp and courtesy pier developed by the Freeman Acres Association on TVA property. All existing encroachments and violations will still be removed.

Hampton Campsite/Holland Lakeview Subdivisions

Original Planning Recommendation: To deny future requests for private water use facilities on a reservoir operations tract fronting these subdivisions because the site was too steep for continued recreational development, backlying private property was sold to clearly marked TVA straight-line boundary, and adjacent property owners did not have legal right to request private water use permits. TVA had issued 12 permits at Hampton Campsite and 5 permits at Holland Lakeview prior to the planning process. Existing permits would be retained until owner relocates or dies.

Final Plan: To allow construction of permitted water use facilities on TVA public land adjacent to the subdivisions and transfer of the water use facility permits to new buyers. Compromise reached to minimize the visual/environmental impact on the site and to ensure compliance with strict construction standards.

Marsh family and neighboring property

Original Planning Recommendation: TVA divide this tract into marketable tracts to be sold at public auction. This would have resulted in removal of private drive access to adjacent land owners.

Final Plan: To provide the Marsh family and neighbors a permanent easement for single road access to each dwelling. The abutting property owner will have equal opportunity to purchase land fronting their private property at public auction.

Shoal Creek, Tract 202

Original Planning Recommendation: This tract was accessible to the public by water only and navigation was hindered by shallow water depth and over bank vegetation. Recommendation was to sell this 5 acre tract at public auction because of its inaccessibility for public use except across private property.

Final Plan: Allocated for informal recreation and visual management due to scenic character—site has unusually large trees, popular for those seeking primitive campsite near water. Change in allocation was due to public comment informing TVA of ongoing moderate recreational use of site.

Twin Rivers Estate

Original Planning Recommendation: To close the boat ramp for public use because the site was in disrepair, too small for adequate parking, and being used for private commercial gain.

Final Plan: TVA agreed to work with a local lake user group to upgrade parking, riprap shoreline, and extend the ramp. TVA also agreed to post signs at the access prohibiting commercial/industrial use of this public recreation area.

PRE-DISTRIBUTION LETTER AND RETURN POSTCARD

(Mailed to 728 Wheeler participants)

Tennessee Valley Authority, 17 Ridgeway Road, Box 920, Norris, Tennessee 37828-0920

February 6, 1996

Dear Wheeler Participant:

On December 13 the TVA Board approved the Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan. We are now preparing to print copies for distribution to those who have participated in the planning process. Printing will take approximately two months. The plan should be ready for distribution in April.

TVA Land Management maintains large project mailing lists, some more current than others. The cost of printing and mailing this document is relatively expensive. We would like you to help us conserve public resources by completing the enclosed prepaid business reply postcard and mailing it back to us. This will let us know who would like to have a copy and assure us we have a valid address for those who participated.

If you have reservoir land-related questions or would like to pickup an extra copy of the plan for a neighbor, please call or drop by TVA's new Wheeler Land Management Office located on the south side of Wheeler Dam Reservation. If you prefer to write, our address is:

Wheeler Land Management Office
Tennessee Valley Authority
119 County Road 412
Town Creek, Alabama 35672

Telephone: (205) 685-4200 or 685-4205

Thank you for your support and participation in the Wheeler planning process.

Spencer D. Boardman
Lands Planning Specialist
Reservoir Land Management

Enclosure

Yes, I would like for TVA to send me a copy of the Wheeler Land Management Plan.

Please send to:
(Circle) *(Please print clearly)*

Mr., Mrs., Ms. _____

P.O. Box _____ Route No. _____

Street Address _____ Apt. No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Do you wish to be kept on the Wheeler mailing list? Yes ____ No____

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 00138 CHATTANOOGA, TN

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
WHEELER LANDS PLANNING
NRB 1A-N
400 W SUMMIT HILL DR
KNOXVILLE TN 37902-9924

LETTER TO WHEELER PARTICIPANTS
AND
MEMO TO TVA ASSOCIATES

TRANSMITTING THE
FINAL WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN
(Mailed to 416 participants and 72 TVA associates)

Tennessee Valley Authority, 17 Ridgeway Road, Box 920, Norris, Tennessee 37828-0920

May 20, 1996

Dear Wheeler Participant:

Enclosed is the final Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan approved by the TVA Board on December 13, 1995.

If you have reservoir land-related questions or would like to pick up an extra copy of the plan for a neighbor, please call or drop by TVA's new Wheeler Land Management Office located on the south side of Wheeler Dam Reservation. If you prefer to write, our address is:

Wheeler Land Management Office
Tennessee Valley Authority
119 County Road 412
Town Creek, Alabama 35672

Telephone: (205) 685-4200 or 685-4205

Thank you for your support and participation in the Wheeler planning process.

Sincerely,

Spencer Boardman

Spencer D. Boardman
Lands Planning Specialist
Reservoir Land Management

Enclosure

The attached letter was mailed to the following:

Mr. Kevin Absher
3401 Seventh Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35805

Fred and Ninfa Ader
Elk River Users
19551 Riverside Street
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. John H. Allen
105 Patsy Drive
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. Thomas E. Allen
3530 Flamingo Road, SW
Huntsville, AL 35802

Mrs. R. C. Allison
1110 Fraser Avenue, SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. & Mrs. Henry L. Anderson, Jr.
103 Toll Gate Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. C. W. Ard
Findley Island Road
Post Office Box 2215
Decatur, AL 35609

Mr. Mark Baker
10401 New Cut Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Charles Balentine
302 Highway 13 North
Post Office Box 142
Collinwood, TN 38450

Larry and Renee Balentine
Route 4, Box 677A
Killen, AL 35645

Mr. Wayne Barber
19474 Cross Key Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. James S. Barger
Freeman Acres Property Owners Assoc.
1814 Devonshire Drive, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Robert H. Barnard
819 Sixth Street, NE
Arab, AL 35016

Mr. James D. Barnes
Freeman Acres
1313 Stuart Avalon, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Jimmy L. Barnett, General Manager
Sheffield Utilities
Post Office Box 580
Sheffield, AL 35660

Mr. Greg L. Barnett
128 Morgan Lane
Falkville, AL 35622

Mr. & Mrs. Albert R. Barran
10404 Paradise Shores
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Gerald Bates
607 West Pryor Street
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Macon Beddingfield
17491 Cross Key Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Thomas D. Bedingfield
Elk River Users
Route 3, Box 367
179 Elk Shores Drive
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Hegan Belue
Route 3, Box 137
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. & Mrs. James W. Bendall
Freeman Acres, Inc.
14486 Lucas Ferry Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Larry Bennich, Chairman
Morgan County Commission
302 Lee Street, NE
Post Office Box 668
Decatur, AL 35602

Mrs. Becky Bergquist
Huntsville Land Trust
Post Office Box 43
Huntsville, AL 35804

Mr. Jerry B. Berry
Route 1, Box 233
Collinwood, TN 38450

Mr. Joe L. Berry
819 Cook Avenue, Suite 137
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. William H. Beutjer
17582 Lakeside Estates Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Richard Biddle, President
WOWL-TV
Post Office Box 2787
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. Billy Biles
2713 Spring Avenue, SW
Decatur, AL 35603

Mr. Wicky Black
17375 Martin Drive
Athens, AL 35611

Ms. Maxine W. Black
14256 Shaw Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. James R. Bland
North Alabama Retriever Club
2012 Magnolia Street
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Lowell E. Blankenship
15771 Ham Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Carlton Bless
Post Office Box 163
Cornersville, TN 37047

Mr. Calvin B. Blevins
8613 Louis Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

Mr. Craig E. Blevins
Tennessee Valley Fly Fishers
1906 Capri Drive, NE
Huntsville, AL 35811

Ms. Ellen Boshers
2722 Bert Watt Road
Petersburg, TN 37144

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Bounds, Jr.
2507 College Street, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Mrs. Wanda L. Boyles
17035 County Road 460
Moulton, AL 35650

Mr. Tony W. Boyles
24896 Traci Lynn
Athens, AL 35611

Ms. Bobby A. Bradley
13540 Hatchie Lane
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. William Breeding
3804 McEwen Drive, NW
Huntsville, AL 35810

Mr. Mark Breen
9513 Hawkins Drive
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Jarvis L. Brewer
Rogersville Industrial Development Board
Post Office Box 237
Rogersville, AL 35652

Dr. Thomas A. Brindley
North Alabama Birding Society
901 Tannahill Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

Mr. L. W. Brock
Brock Radio-TV
2506 Poincianna Street, SW
Huntsville, AL 35801

Honorable Bobby J. Brown
Mayor of Hanceville
112 Main Street
Hanceville, AL 35077

Mr. Steven D. Bryant
20543 Harris Loop Road
Elkmont, AL 35620

Mr. Robert Bumpus
1306 Nobel Street, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Thomas E. Bunt
78 Union Hill Road
Loretto, TN 38469

Mrs. Sigrid Burge
12650 Lookingbill Lane
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Billy Burgreen
100 Maryville Drive
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Rowland Burns
Alabama Conservancy
1920 Rosalie Ridge Drive
Huntsville, AL 35811

Ms. Susan L. Burroughs
Hampton Campsites
109 Jane Road
Hazel Green, AL 35750

Mr. Paul Butalla
Route 4, Box 478
Killen, AL 35645-9454

Mr. W. Steve Butler
Route 3, Box 201-F
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Pat Byington, Executive Director
Alabama Environmental Council
Suite 207
2717 Seventh Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35233

Mr. Charles Byrd
1500 Jackson Road
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. Paul Byrge
Deputy Director of Public Works
Post Office Box 308
Huntsville, AL 35804

Ms. Martha Camp
Hampton Campsites
210 Wellington Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Larry Wren Campbell
Civil Engineering Manager 1
TDOT Survey and Design Office
Post Office Box 22368
Chattanooga, TN 37422-2368

Honorable D. Ray Campbell
Alabama Senate
Post Office Box 1988
Decatur, AL 35603

Mr. W. Mack Campbell
1102 West Sixth Avenue
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Anthony D. Campbell
Advertiser Gleam
2300 Mt. Carmel Drive
Guntersville, AL 35976

Mr. David Campbell
526 Cullman Road
Arab, AL 35016

Mr. Ernest Carden, Jr.
2221 Swain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35810

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph B. Carl
13512 Hatchie Lane
Athens, AL 35611-6818

Mr. Steve W. Carpenter
6982 U.S. Highway 72
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. James A. Carpenter
8223 Carpenter Lane
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. W. David Carraway
Post Office Box 748
Moulton, AL 35650

Mr. Jack Carroll
2501 Woodview Drive, SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

Ms. Penny J. Cash
Hampton Campsites
109 Jane Drive
Hazel Green, AL 35750

Mr. Carlton Cash
590 Carriger Road
Hazel Green, AL 35750

Mr. Edward J. Cattadoris
2509 Piney Branch Road
Huntsville, AL 35810

Mr. Charles B. Chidwell
Post Office Box 5226
Huntsville, AL 35814

Mr. Charles R. Christensen
1202 Levert Avenue
Athens, AL 35611

Jimmy and Joann Christopher
Friends of Elk River Newsletter
6627 Casteel Lane
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. James W. Christopher
Post Office Box 74
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. & Mrs. Billy A. Christopher
Route 3, Box 264-J
Rogersville, AL 35652

Ms. Gwendolyn Christopher
Hampton Campsites
5855 Henry Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Paul Clark
Post Office Box 125
Courtland, AL 35618

Bobby R. and Lois J. Clark
207 Bobwhite Drive, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Larry Clem
14679 Dogwood Circle
Athens, AL 35611

N. H. Clement
9414 Beechwood Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Alan Clemons
Outdoors Editor
The Huntsville Times
2317 South Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, AL 35807

Mr. John R. Cochran
504 Jeffery Drive
Huntsville, AL 35806

LTC Eldridge H. Cockrell
Cockrell Realty, Inc.
2505 Burningtree Drive, SE
Decatur, AL 35603

Mr. Giles M. Collier
County Executive
Post Office Box 678
Pulaski, TN 38478

Mr. Roger Collins
Dalton Walker Road
Post Office Box 818
Bountsville, AL 35031

Mr. Alan L. Compton
1708 Graywood Court
Huntsville, AL 35806-3423

Mr. Joseph C. Cooney
117 Highland Place
Sheffield, AL 35660

Mr. Robert Cooper
Marshall Space Flight Center
507 Chickamauga Circle
Huntsville, AL 35812

Ms. Hester Cope
The Alabama Conservancy
1750 Eunice Avenue
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. Mark A. Copeland
1107 South Madison
Athens, AL 35611

Honorable Bud Cramer
U.S. House of Representatives
236 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0105

Honorable Bud Cramer
U.S. House of Representatives
Post Office Box 668
Decatur, AL 35602

Mr. Thomas T. Craven
General Manager
Athens Utilities
Post Office Box 1089
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Danny F. Crawford, Agent
Limestone County ASCS/DU/AWF
1795 Highway 72 East
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. & Mrs. Cecil D. Creel
17602 Lakeside Estate Road
Athens, AL 35611

Ms. June Crews
Route 7, Box 321
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. James E. Cross
Route 2, Box 285C
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. John P. Crowder
421 Nottingham Road
Florence, AL 35633

Mr. Roy Crowder
14488 Dogwood Circle
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Robert B. Culver, Executive Director
Top of Alabama Regional Council of Gov.
Suite A
115 Washington Street, SE
Huntsville, AL 35801-4883

Mr. Joseph R. Dabbs
1815 Inspiration Lane
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. Vic P. Daily
Ducks Unlimited
109 Bobwhite Drive, SE
Decatur, AL 35603

Mr. Richard Darling
Roy F. Weston, Inc.
1880-H Beaver Ridge Circle
Norcross, GA 30071-3833

Mr. Doug P. Darr
AL Dept. of Conservation & Natural Res.
Alabama Game and Fish Division
17941 Collins Street
Athens, AL 35611

Ms. Jane Davis
28094 Pettusville Road
Elkmont, AL 35620

Mr. Wiley L. Day, President
Coalition of Concerned Citizens
6506 Cedar Point Drive, NW
Huntsville, AL 35810

Mr. Sammy Dean
Southampton Court, SE
Post Office Box 1503
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. John F. Deemer
Post Office Box 1206
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Anthony A. DiCerbo
3316 Hastings Road
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. Will Diener
2633 Hickory Flats Trail
Huntsville, AL 35801

Dr. Wilford C. Doss
738 Nellie Avenue
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. Bubba Doss
Bubba's Marine
Route 4, Box 220C
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Philip Dotts
Blount Parrish and Roton, Inc.
Suite 201
100 Washington Street
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. Rex Dove
1313 Byran Avenue
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Floyd Drake
409 Quietdale Drive
Huntsville, AL 35811

Mr. Thomas Duke
7735 Mallard Road
Huntsville, AL 35802

Mr. & Mrs. John L. Dumbacher
6819 Jones Valley Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

Mr. James D. Dye
8346 Beechwood Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Glendon R. Easter
16553 O'Neal Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Mike J. Eaton
Route 4, Box 754
Killen, AL 35645

Mr. Jeffery E. Ernest
1311 Aston Street
Athens, AL 35611

William N. and Evelyn Evans
Holland Lakeview Shores
Route 3, Box 387C
Rogersville, AL 35652

Ms. Shirley F. Favors
Route 1, Box 401
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Hollis Fenn
Alabama Conservancy
736 Prospect Street
Florence, AL 35630

Ms. Gladys H. Ferguson
Rockhouse Road
Post Office Box 50
Mooresville, AL 35649

Mr. William A. Ferguson
2904 Garth Road
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. Ben Ferrill
City of Huntsville Planning Division
308 Fountain Circle
Huntsville, AL 35804

Ms. Janie H. Field
2305 Old River Road, SE
Decatur, AL 35603

Mr. Steve Finnell
Director, Economic Development
Huntsville-Madison Co. Chamber
Post Office Box 408
Huntsville, AL 35804

Mr. Larry A. Flack
Marshall County Commission
349 Halston Road
Arab, AL 35016

Mr. Buster Frank, President
Frank & Stevenson Realty Company, Inc.
513 Madison Street
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. Wilford Franks
Route 5, Box 188
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. Roy B. Freeman
1001 County Road 415
Town Creek, AL 35672

Mr. Paul Funk
1605 Eastwood Drive
Decatur, AL 35601

Eugene M. Futato, Senior Archaeologist
The University of Alabama
Office of Archaeological Research
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474

Mr. Steve Garland
Moss Lumber Company
6400 Highway 72 East
Post Office Box 338
Gurley, AL 35748

Haskell and Jane Garner, Jr.
Route 11, Box 436-A
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. Ken Garner
8710 Highway 53
Toney, AL 35773

Mr. John P. Garrett
11275 Drennen Drive
Tanner, AL 35671

Mr. Wayne Gentry
Freeman Acres
Post Office Box 9
Moulton, AL 35650

Mr. Thomas A. Gilbert
Hampton Campsites
507 Wellington Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Bobby S. Gilbert
12825 Davis Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Nason Gilbert
18751 Blackwell Road
Athens, AL 37611

Mr. Murlen J. Glover
Old Gurley Road
Post Office Box 315
Huntsville, AL 35811

Mr. Lyn W. Gossett, Jr.
106 Brookwood Drive
Post Office Box 127
Athens, AL 35612

Mr. Coy Graben
Marshall County Board of Realtors
8379 U.S. Highway 431
Albertville, AL 35950

Ms. Elizabeth B. Graham
14715 Dogwood Circle
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Thomas F. Green
26509 Corandelette
Orange Beach, AL 36561

Mr. Tim Griffin
16564 Evans Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Cliss Griggs, Jr.
Friends of the Tennessee River, Inc.
Post Office Box 7
Arab, AL 35016

B. L. Griggs
15448 Kings Drive
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. David Gruber
Maintenance Training Manager
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Post Office Box 2000
Killen, AL 35645

Mr. John H. Gustafson
164 Rivermont Bend
Somerville, AL 35670

Mr. Rueben L. Hamby
Route 2, Box 376D
Florence, AL 35630

David M. and Mary Hammock
Elk River Users
Route 3, Box 352
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Kenneth J. Hammond
Route 3, Box 261C
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Ronnie B. Haraway
Route 1, Box 78
7381 Pine Haven Shores
Rogersville, AL 35652-9801

Mr. Charles E. Harvell
2143 Eastbrook, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Ms. Linda Hathaway
1710 Westmeade Street, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Fred W. Hauck
1235 Brandywine Lane
Decatur, AL 35601

Robert and Marilyn Heinisch
2405 Gladstone Drive
Huntsville, AL 35811

Jeffrey and Anne Heller
Hampton Campsites Property Owners Association
5641 Henry Road
Athens, AL 35611

Dr. & Mrs. Harold A. Henderson
717 West Lakeside Drive
Florence, AL 35630-4165

Mr. Frank Henson
508 Westwood Drive, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Ms. Kathy Herma
Hampton Campsites Property Owners Association
5517 Henry Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. & Mrs. James A. Hester
1414 Runnymeade Drive
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Leroy S. Heston
4102 Penny Street
Huntsville, AL 35805

Mr. Bobby Ray Hicks
5 Highridge Circle
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

Mr. Roger G. Hicks
19469 County Road 460
Moulton, AL 35650

Glenn and Doris Higginbotham
Holland Lakeview Shores
1304 West Market Street
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy D. Hitt
Hitt Garage
1308 Alpine Street, SE
Decatur, AL 35603

Mr. Ray C. Holder
7020 Lauderdale Road, SW
Huntsville, AL 35802

Mr. Ashley Holland
Holland Diving Service, Inc.
Post Office Box 939
Decatur, AL 35602

Mr. Clayton Hollingsworth
Route 1, Box 156
Doyle, TN 38559-9712

Mr. William R. Horne
206 South First
Post Office Box 289
Pulaski, TN 38478

Jearold P. Horton
Marshall County Board of Realtors
1185 Smith Drive
Horton, AL 35980

Ms. Karen Howard
Route 2, Box 396
Rogersville, AL 35652

William and Delores M. Howard
19285 Robinson Road
Elkmont, AL 35620

Mr. Charles M. Hubbert
Alabama Museum of Natural History
1910 Crape Myrtle Green
Huntsville, AL 35803

Mr. O. Ray Hubble
Post Office Box 28
Guntersville, AL 35976

Russell and Pat Huffman
9601 Riverside Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. & Mrs. James C. Hughes
Hampton Campsites
1020 Jackson Street, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Ms. Virginia Hunt
Wayne County Chamber of Commerce
Post Office Box 675
Waynesboro, TN 38485

Mr. Jeffrey A. Inman
9681 Riverside Road
Athens, AL 35611

Dr. Thomas S. Jandebeur
Athens State College
Biology Department
Post Office Box 215
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Jack V. Johnson
420 Dry Creek Cove Road
Lacey's Spring, AL 35734

Mr. Jeff Johnson
229 Country Wood Court
Harvest, AL 35749

Mr. Luther E. Johnson
Route 3, Box 136E
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Jack Johnson
2700 Johnson Road
Germantown, TN 38139

Mr. J. D. Jones
800 Highway 72 East
Athens, AL 35611

Mrs. Bobbie J. Jordan
2913 Alexander Street
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. Willis S. Kastorff
12076 Wall Triana Highway
Ardmore, AL 35739

Mr. Steven R. Kelly
Kelly Sales Company, Inc.
157 Whitaker Lane
New Hope, AL 35760

Mr. John W. Key
918 Sixth Avenue, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. J. Bart Kilgore
13971 Friend Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. J. W. King, Jr.
2613 Watham Avenue, NE
Huntsville, AL 35811

Mr. & Mrs. Sam King
Post Office Box 1131
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. David King
Post Office Box 336
Meridianville, AL 35759

Mr. Wallace E. Kirkpatrick, President
DESE Research, Inc.
Suite 2
315 Wynn Drive
Huntsville, AL 35805

Mr. Darrell J. Knight, Jr.
717 Larkwood Circle
Hartselle, AL 35640

Mr. Franklin R. Knowles
6886 U.S. Highway 72
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Brooks Kracke
Executive Director
North AL Industrial Development Assoc.
Post Office Box 1668
Decatur, AL 35602

Dr. Richard A. Krause
University of Alabama
Department of Anthropology
Post Office Box 870210
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Mr. Gustav A. Kroll
1206 McClung Avenue, SE
Huntsville, AL 35801-2507

Mr. James E. Ladner
18071 Elk Estate Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. & Mrs. Joe D. Lambert
27362 Denbo Circle
Harvest, AL 35749

Mr. Griffin T. Lassiter, Director
Alabama Resource Center
1500 Resource Drive
Post Office Box 2641
Birmingham, AL 35242

Mrs. Barbara B. Laubenthal
Hampton Campsites
5463 Henry Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. B. J. Lawrence
808 Sherman Street
Decatur, AL 35601

Dr. Robert O. Lawton
Behavioral Ecologist
University of Alabama, Huntsville
Department of Biological Sciences
Huntsville, AL 35899

Ms. Lynn A. Leach
307 Shooting Star Trail
Gurley, AL 35748

James and Ann Lee
101 Lynbrook Boulevard
Madison, AL 35758

Mr. Winston V. Legge, Jr.
Elk River Users
407 North Madison Street
Post Office Box 470
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. John LeGrand
Wheeler Grain Company
3502 Carroll Circle
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. James H. Lemay
1112 Crestline Place
Hartselle, AL 35640

Mr. Tony Q. Lentz
6104 County Road 434
Trinity, AL 35673

Mr. Robert R. Leonard
4009 Piedmont Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

Mr. Kenneth Lewter
17625 Jeffery Street
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. James W. Limbaugh
329 Fairway Drive
Clarksburg, TN 37043

Mr. Henry S. Long, Jr.
Boise Cascade Corporation
Suite 103
900 Second Avenue, SW
Cullman, AL 35055

Mr. Huey D. Long
Post Office Box 872
Athens, AL 35612

Mr. William A. Lott
151 Busch Hill Drive
Wetumpka, AL 36092

Mr. Jim Mack
Executive Director
United States Canoe Association
606 Ross Street
Middletown, OH 45044

Mr. Nicholas J. Mangus
1702 Stonehurst Drive
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. Bill Marett
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
933 Forest Acres Court
Nashville, TN 37220

Honorable Herman H. Marks
Alabama House of Representatives
1704 Sandra Street, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. William M. Marsh
2848 Southwest Rockhouse Road
Madison, AL 35758

Mr. James J. Marsh
3084 Southwest Rockhouse Road
Madison, AL 35758

Mr. Joseph S. Marsh, Jr.
2778 Southwest Rockhouse Road
Madison, AL 35758

Mr. Gordon Marsh
3052 Southwest Rockhouse Road
Madison, AL 35758

Mr. John S. Marshall, Jr.
609 Clearview Street, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. S. Scott Marshall
17851 Elles Drive
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. D. L. Marshall
1309 Elizabeth Avenue, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Mrs. Lelia Sykes Martin
Albemarle Corporation
Post Office Box 356
Courtland, AL 35618

Mr. Rudolph E. Mayer
Route 5, Box 105A
Rogersville, AL 35652-9417

Mr. John McBride
805 Sixth Avenue, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Charles P. McCaghren
1802 Fifth Avenue, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. & Mrs. Paul P. McCain
2202 Fleetwood Drive, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Dr. Rebecca C. McCaleb
AE01
Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Sp Fl Ctr, AL 35812

Mr. Jeff McCollum
614 Margarete Street
Decatur, AL 35603

Mr. Frank O. McCollum Sr.
1803 Ida Lane
Athens, AL 35611

Dr. Larry McCoy, President
Shoals Community College
George Wallace Boulevard
Post Office Box 2545
Muscle Shoals, AL 35662

Gayno and Jeanette L. D. McKelvey
Freeman Acres
110 Woodland Terrace
Moulton, AL 35650

Mr. David W. McKelvey
2005 Murphree Road
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Greg McKelvey
Delphi Saginaw Steering
U. S. Highway 315
Post Office Box 311
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. W. L. McLendon
Route 2, Box 98
Sunset Beach Road
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. Larry McLoy
Post Office Box 2862
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Mr. Harrison McMains
Apartment B
2517 Toll Gate Road
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. Greg McMurtrey
Route 1, Box 35-C
Florence, AL 35630

Dr. Charles H. McNutt
University of Memphis
Department of Anthropology
Memphis, TN 38152

Mr. Randy M. Milam
TN Valley Waterfowl Association, Inc.
2009 Birch Street, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Edward E. Mills
Route 3, Box 324E
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Sam Minor, Executive Director
Northwest AL Council of Local Gov.
103 Student Drive
Post Office Box 2603
Muscle Shoals, AL 35662

Mr. Roy B. Mitchell
3104 Glenmere Place, SW
Decatur, AL 35603

Mr. & Mrs. H. N. Mobley
Twin Dell Land Owners Association
Route 3, Box 158
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. & Mrs. David W. Montgomery
231 High Road
Madison, AL 35758-1405

Mr. David F. Moore
Editor
The Arab Tribune
Post Office Box 605
Arab, AL 35016

Mr. Tony W. Moore
1536 Blackhall Lane, SE
Decatur, AL 35602

Mr. Percy Morris
2091 County Road 388
Hillsboro, AL 35643

Mr. Thomas V. Morton
73 Baker Avenue
Dover, NJ 7801

Mr. Robert P. Moss
8127 Hickory Hill Lane
Huntsville, AL 35802

Mr. William H. Murray
2902 Dobbs Drive
Huntsville, AL 35801

Leaf and Cielo S. Myczack, Co-Directors
Broadened Horizons Riverkeepers
1931 Aqua Vista Shores
Post Office Box 478
Killen, AL 35645

Mr. Gerald D. Myrick
Manager
Florence Electricity Department
Post Office Box 877
Florence, AL 35631

C. W. Nelson
Chairman
Decatur-Morgan County Port Authority
2012 Pennylane, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Steve and Duane Nelson
Nelson Iron and Metal Company
Route 7, Box 15
Decatur, AL 35603

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Nelson
Route 5, Box 96AA
Pine Circle Drive
Hartselle, AL 35640

Mr. Dustin R. Newton
1205G Beacon Parkway East
Birmingham, AL 35209

Mr. F. K. Noojin
Post Office Box 287
Huntsville, AL 35804

Mr. & Mrs. William A. Norton
1803 Eighth Avenue, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Randall C. O'Bannon
105 Spring Farm Road
Huntsville, AL 35811

Mr. John E. O'Bryan
Jesco Service, Inc.
915F Willowbrook Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald S. Owen
Twin Dell Land Owners Association
4023 Piedmont Drive, SE
Huntsville, AL 35802

Mr. Robert D. Palmer
Times Daily
219 West Tennessee Street
Post Office Box 797
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. J. David Pandelis
1409 Thirteenth Avenue
Pleasant Grove, AL 35127

Honorable Paul Parker
Alabama House of Representatives
606 Douglas Drive, NW
Hartselle, AL 35640

Mr. Jack N. Parsons
105 Algeia Street
Post Office Box 455
Fayetteville, TN 37334

Mr. Carl B. Payne
Metropolitan Executive
Moore County Courthouse
Post Office Box 206
Lynchburg, TN 37352

Mr. & Mrs. Russell S. Perry
12561 Beech Fork Lane
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. David M. Petersen
Decatur Utilities
Post Office Box 2232
Decatur, AL 35609

Mr. Cliff R. Phillips
208 Silver Tail Lane
Huntsville, AL 35824

Mr. David G. Pierce, Jr.
18422 Northwest 22 Street
Pembroke Pines, FL 33029

Mr. John Plunk
Post Office Box 711
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. W. H. Pollard, Jr.
Post Office Box 36
Mooresville, AL 35649

Mr. & Mrs. Dan B. Poole
181 Dee Neeley Road
New Market, AL 35761

Mr. Robert L. Potts
President
University of North Alabama
UNA Box 5004
Florence, AL 35632-0001

Mr. Howard Powell
Post Office Box 87
Guntersville, AL 35976

Ms. Susie B. Prewitt
1313 Byran Avenue, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Gene L. and Barbara C. Price
Friends of the Tennessee River
88 Norberg Road
Guntersville, AL 35976

Ms. Carol Puckett
629 Jackson Street
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. James R. Ray
1304 Fletcher Avenue, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Pembroke and Penley P. Rees
Coxey Creek Subdivision
12309 Davis Road
Athens, AL 35611-7808

Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Reid, Jr.
2616 Mountain Brook Parkway
Birmingham, AL 35223

Mr. Jimmy Rice
1420 North Jefferson Street
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. William F. Richardson
Elk Lake Users
16795 Linton Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. James M. Rickman
10775 Douglas Circle
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Ernest W. Ritch
1500 Glenwood Drive, SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. John R. Roberts
Route 1, Box 383
Counce, TN 38326

Mr. Tommy Ed Roberts
Executive Director
Morgan County Industrial Dev. Assoc.
Post Office Box 2026
Decatur, AL 35602-2026

Mr. Michael D. Roberts
North Alabama Industrial Development Association
Post Office Box 1668
Decatur, AL 35602

Mr. Benjamin Edward Robinson
Elk River Users
Route 3, Box 337
Rogersville, AL 35652

Stephen and Nancy M. Rohr
10012 Louis Drive
Huntsville, AL 35803-1006

Mr. Robert Russ
Post Office Box 37
Saint Joseph, TN 38481

Mr. & Mrs. Jack C. Russell
615 South Old Six Mile Road
Somerville, AL 35670

Heery and Carole Russell
104 Brookwood Drive
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. A. T. Rutherford, Jr.
Post Office Box 102
Trinity, AL 35673

Mr. Mark Salverson
Sierra Club, North Alabama
196 Kirby Lane
Madison, AL 35758

Marshall W. and Alan R. Sandlin
1002 Grant Street
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph E. Serocki
3005 Greenhill Drive, NW
Huntsville, AL 35810

Dr. John B. Sewell, Jr.
6185 Mooresville Road
Post Office Box 188
Belle Mina, AL 35615

Mr. Charles Shaver
413 Locust Avenue, SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. John Shaver
1004 Fraser Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35801

Senator Richard C. Shelby
United States Senate
Box 20127, 1000 Glenn Hearn Boulevard
Huntsville International Airport
Huntsville, AL 35824

Senator Richard C. Shelby
United States Senate
110 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Mr. Millard A. Shelton
9516 County Road 214
Trinity, AL 35673

Mr. W. Hayward Shelton
9509 County Road 434
Trinity, AL 35673

Mr. James Sherrill
1811 Olive Street, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Earl and Sonya Shirley
1709 Camellia Drive, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

Dr. James D. Shown
18351 Dement Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Joe Sides
Post Office Box 669
Decatur, AL 35602

Mr. Jeff Sikes
Owner and General Manager
Jeff Sikes Mazda
Post Office Box 18944
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. George T. Simms
Post Office Box 325
Moulton, AL 35650

Ms. Dorothy C. Skrotzki
Wildfur (Wildlife Rehabilitator)
14216 Dogwood Road
Athens, AL 35611-8221

Mr. Wayne Sledge
17479 Shaw Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Larry Sledge
11975 Mack Road
Athens, AL 35611

Honorable Jim Smith
108-A South Side Square
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. Marcus Smith
7806 Allison Loop
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Harold W. Smith
1030 Sherman Street, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Jimmy Snow
Route 3, Box 334B
Riverfront Road
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Jimmy W. Speegle
Route 2, Box 152
Somerville, AL 35670

Mr. Thomas E. Spelce
Route 3, Box 120H
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Lewis Spiegel
Holland Lakeview Shores
Route 3, Box 387
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. M. E. Springer
1600 Autry Way
Knoxville, TN 37909

Mr. & Mrs. Donald H. Steenburn
Route 3, Box 273A
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Arthur M. Stephenson
2556 County Road 317
Moulton, AL 35650

Ms. Melissa Sterling, President
Alabama Wildlife Rescue Service - TVC
Post Office Box 2305
Huntsville, AL 35804

Mr. Walter B. Stevenson, Jr., Chief
Alabama Department of Economic and
Community Affairs
Post Office Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103-5690

Ms. Charlotte Stewart, Director
Alabama Intertribal Council
669 South Lawrence Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Mr. Buddy B. Stokes
18154 Dement Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Frank D. Storms
27675 East Land Drive
Harvest, AL 35749

Ms. P. J. Stowe
1355 County Road 415
Town Creek, AL 35672

Mr. Tommy Strain
Post Office Box 185
Tanner, AL 35671

Mr. Jon Strickland
401 Adams Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36103

Mr. Ernest F. Stroh
707 Holland Drive, SW
Decatur, AL 35601

James and Carole Sullivan
Route 3, Box 142
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Jerry S. Sutton
203 Orvil Smith Road
Harvest, AL 35749

Mr. Albert Swain
1015 Appalachee Drive
Huntsville, AL 35801

Mr. Bill Swindell
605 Sudie Street
Post Office Box 111
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Bradley L. Tanksley
16603 Sandy Lane
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. James L. Taylor
14455 Dogwood Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Willie H. Taylor
10302 Motter Drive
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Charles H. Taylor
279 Shagbark Trail
Somerville, AL 35670

Mr. Bobby Terry
Vaughn Bridge Road
Post Office Box 809
Hartselle, AL 35640

Mr. Benny L. Terry
18011 County Road 460
Moulton, AL 35650

Dr. F. Philip Thomas
1304 13th Avenue, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Gary M. Thomas
17705 Owens Street
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Thompson
Route 5, Box 105
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Guy P. Thompson
10005 Lily Flagg Circle
Huntsville, AL 35803

Mr. Bayless R. Thornton
Post Office Box 74
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. & Mrs. Tom G. Thrasher
Littrell Subdivision
1002 Westmoreland Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35801

Jackie T. Tipper
1845 Ridge Avenue
Florence, AL 35630

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Tolbert
Route 6
17464 Lakeside Estate Road
Athens, AL 35611

Gary J. and Sandra K. Toomey
13745 Shaw Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Billy W. Turner Sr.
12259 Friend Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Carter B. Tutwiler
1306 Donna Avenue, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Sam Underwood
Route 3
365 B-Elk Shore Drive
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. John W. Upton
Route 6, Box 93-O
Florence, AL 35633

Mr. Clay Vandiver
President
Compass Bank
Post Office Box 127
Huntsville, AL 35804

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Vial
Post Office Box 678
Rogersville, AL 35652

Mr. Gary L. Voketz
2415 Crestview Drive, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Don Waldon
Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway
Authority
Post Office Box 671
Columbus, MS 39703

Mr. Julian R. Walker
Point Mallard Park
Post Office Box 1315
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Robert C. Walker, Jr.
Director of Planning
City of Decatur
Post Office Box 488
Decatur, AL 35602

Mr. Alfred E. Wallace
Route 4
Post Office Box 476
Killen, AL 35645

Ms. Brenda L. Walton
Holland Realty and Auction
Route 1, Box 434
Killen, AL 35645

Mike & Dell Ward
2304 Brookwood Drive
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. W. S. Warren
300 Richmond Place
Franklin, TN 37064

Mr. Charles C. Watts, Jr.
Field Representative
Office of The Honorable Tom Bevill
Post Office Box 1903
Jasper, AL 35502

Mr. Clark J. Weatherwax, Jr.
109 Woodland Road
Moulton, AL 35650

Mr. Andy Welch
Marine Operations, CN71
Marshall Sp Flt Ctr, AL 35812

Mr. Alfred Westlake
Elk River Users
19339 Westlake Circle
Athens, AL 35611

Clyde T. and Gurnie P. White
1310 Tenth Avenue, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Warren E. White
Route 6, Box 478-A
Hartselle, AL 35640

Mr. Sidney R. White
134 Farrow Lane
Madison, AL 35758

Mr. Dudley A. White
AL Dept. of Conservation & Natural Res.
Alabama Game and Fish Division
21438 Harris Station Road
Tanner, AL 35671

Mr. Larry Williams
9864 Segers Road
Madison, AL 35758

Mr. & Mrs. Joe A. Williams
Post Office Box 885
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. George T. Williamson
12770 Friend Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Kenneth M. Wills, Jr.
Suite 207
2717 Seventh Avenue
Birmingham, AL 35233

Mr. John Paul Wilson
Elk River Users
18721 Cox Road
Athens, AL 35611

Mr. V. H. Wilson, Jr.
1680 Crosshill Lane
Warrior, AL 35180

C. R. Witherspoon
Route 1, Box 340F2
Killen, AL 35645

Mr. Tom Witt
609 Chickamauga Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37917

Mr. & Mrs. Larry A. Woodworth
Twin Rivers Homeowners Association
8117 Strong Drive
Huntsville, AL 35802

Mr. Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Road, SE
Huntsville, AL 35803

Mr. M. Sonny Wright
Pugh, Wright, and Associates, Inc.
Post Office Box 2419
Athens, AL 35602

Mr. Tom Wright
Post Office Box 2213
Decatur, AL 35609

Ms. Linda Wright
Post Office Box Q
Sheffield, AL 35660

Mr. Troy M. Wyers
1806 Eastwood Drive, SE
Decatur, AL 35601

Mr. Houston A. Yarbrough
1109 Bessener Road
Huntsville, AL 35816-2301

Mr. Milton F. Yarbrough, Jr.
Hampton Campsites
Post Office Box 6003
Huntsville, AL 35824

Ms. Kay Young
9745 Riverside Road
Athens, AL 35611

Donald C. and Edith Zeek
16003 Spring Forest Drive
Houston, TX 77059

Mr. Evon Zills
Post Office Box 592
Courtland, AL 35618

Lawrence County Commission
Suite 1
750 Main Street
Moulton, AL 35650

Huntsville-Madison County Public Library
Post Office Box 443
Huntsville, AL 35804

TN Valley Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
Calhoun College Campus
Post Office Box 1926
Decatur, AL 35602

Town of Somerville
Main and Broad
Post Office Box 153
Somerville, AL 35670

WBCF AM/TV
Post Office Box 1316
Florence, AL 35631

Athens Public Library
411 East South Street
Athens, AL 35611

Wheeler Basin Regional Library
504 Cherry Street, NE
Decatur, AL 35601

May 23, 1996

Those listed on page 2

DISTRIBUTION OF THE WHEELER RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Attached is the final Wheeler Reservoir Land Management Plan, approved by the TVA Board on December 13, 1995.

You or a fellow associate in your group provided data and/or suggested improvements to this plan at some point in the planning process. Over 700 citizens, organizations, agencies, local officials, and state and federal representatives also reviewed draft documents and suggested issues, values, and concerns relating to the stewardship and land use of 11,282 acres of public land around Wheeler Reservoir.

As project leader, I thank you for your continued support and encouragement to the Wheeler Core Team in completing this document. If you need additional copies or have reservoir land related questions, please contact TVA's Wheeler/Wilson Land Management Office, 119 County Road 412, Town Creek, Alabama 35672, (internal - LM 1A-TCA) or call (205) 685-4200.

Spencer D. Boardman
Reservoir Land Management

Beverly M. Absher, SB 1F-M
Stephen D. Abston, CTR 2P-M
William S. Ambrose, MU 1A-N
J. Scott Atkins, WTR 1A-GVA
Carol E. Ayers, BR 4F-C
Don F. Bailey, WR 4L-C
Reggie Barnett, CSC 1A-HNA
Judith P. Bartlow, NRB 2B-N
Craig W. Beasley, PAB 1A-BFN
Jennifer N. Beeler, CST 17D-C
Judy B. Beets, CSC 1A-HNA
Carline C. Bryant, WT 10C-K
Robert E. Buchanan, Jr., WT 8D-K
Diana L. Bullock, CSC 1A-HNA
Garry E. Chappelle, NRB 1B-N
Terry S. Chilcoat, ABL 1A-N
George G. Conner, WT 10C-K
Joseph C. Cooney, CTR 2P-M
Stephen D. Cottrell, MU 1A-N
Janice P. Cox, CST 17D-C
Dennis T. Curtin, NRB 2A-N
Robert L. Curtis, Jr., NRB 1A-N
Clay S. Davis, Jr., ET 10A-K
Stanford E. Davis, WPB 1A-MOT
Bridgette K. Ellis, NRB 2D-N
Patricia B. Ezzell, NRB 2C-N
Joe C. Feeman, Jr., MU 1A-N
J. Bennett Graham, NRB 2C-N
Catherine E. Griffith, WT 10D-K
Ellen L. Hammond, CST 17D-C
Russell Harris III, NRB 1C-N
Debra L. Heck, MU 1A-N
Ruben O. Hernandez, NRB 1A-N
Connie J. Hill, NRB 2D-N
Kenneth W. Holmquist, HB 2A-C
Terry E. Howard, LM 1A-TCA
Danny R. Johnson, SB 1H-M
Rebecca L. Jolly, NRB 1B-N
J. Ralph Jordan, Jr., NRB 2B-N
Gregory W. Lowe, WT 10D-K
Robert A. Marker, NRB 2D-N
William R. McCann, LM 1A-TCA
Tere C. McDonough, NRB 1A-N
Timothy L. McKeehan, WT 9B-K
Fred A. Miller III, CST 17D-C
Roger A. Milstead, WT 10C-K
Philip J. Mummert, ET 5A-K
Michael L. Nabors, SB 1F-M
Marshall T. Nelson, WT 10B-K
Charles P. Nicholson, WT 8C-K
Norris A. Nielsen, CEB 2A-M
David L. Pack, NRB 1A-N
Ronald W. Pasch, CST 17D-C
Laurie S. Pearl, WPB 1A-MOT
Samuel C. Perry, FOR 2C-N
Richard L. Pflueger, PSD 1A-M
Wayne L. Poppe, CST 17D-C
Garry W. Pyle, NRB BA-N
Eric W. Rauch, NRB 2A-N
William H. Redmond, Jr., NRB 2B-N
Sandra S. Robertson, CST 17D-C
E. Bruce Rowland, NRB 1A-N
Gregory R. Signer, ET 10A-K
Michael C. Smith, WT 8A-K
Charles W. Snipes, Jr., PSD 1A-M
John M. Soileau, CTR 2K-M
Gary L. Springston, CST 17D-C
S. Berry Stalcup, Jr., CTR 2P-M
Charles R. Tichy, NRB 2C-N
Barry B. Walton, ET 10A-K
David H. Webb, CTR 2P-M

SDB:CJG
Attachments

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