



Natural Areas Program

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Natural Resource Management – East Operations

TVA What is a Natural Area?

Natural areas are places dominated by native vegetation that have various levels of potential for harboring high quality natural resources and unique features

TVA has 157 natural areas covering 15,900 acres

- ◆ Small Wild Areas - SWA
- ◆ Ecological Study Areas - ESA
- ◆ Habitat Protection Areas - HPA
- ◆ Wildlife Observation Areas - WOA



Raven Rock SWA

Natural Areas on TVA Lands



Hemlock Bluff SWA



Norris River Bluff SWA /HPA

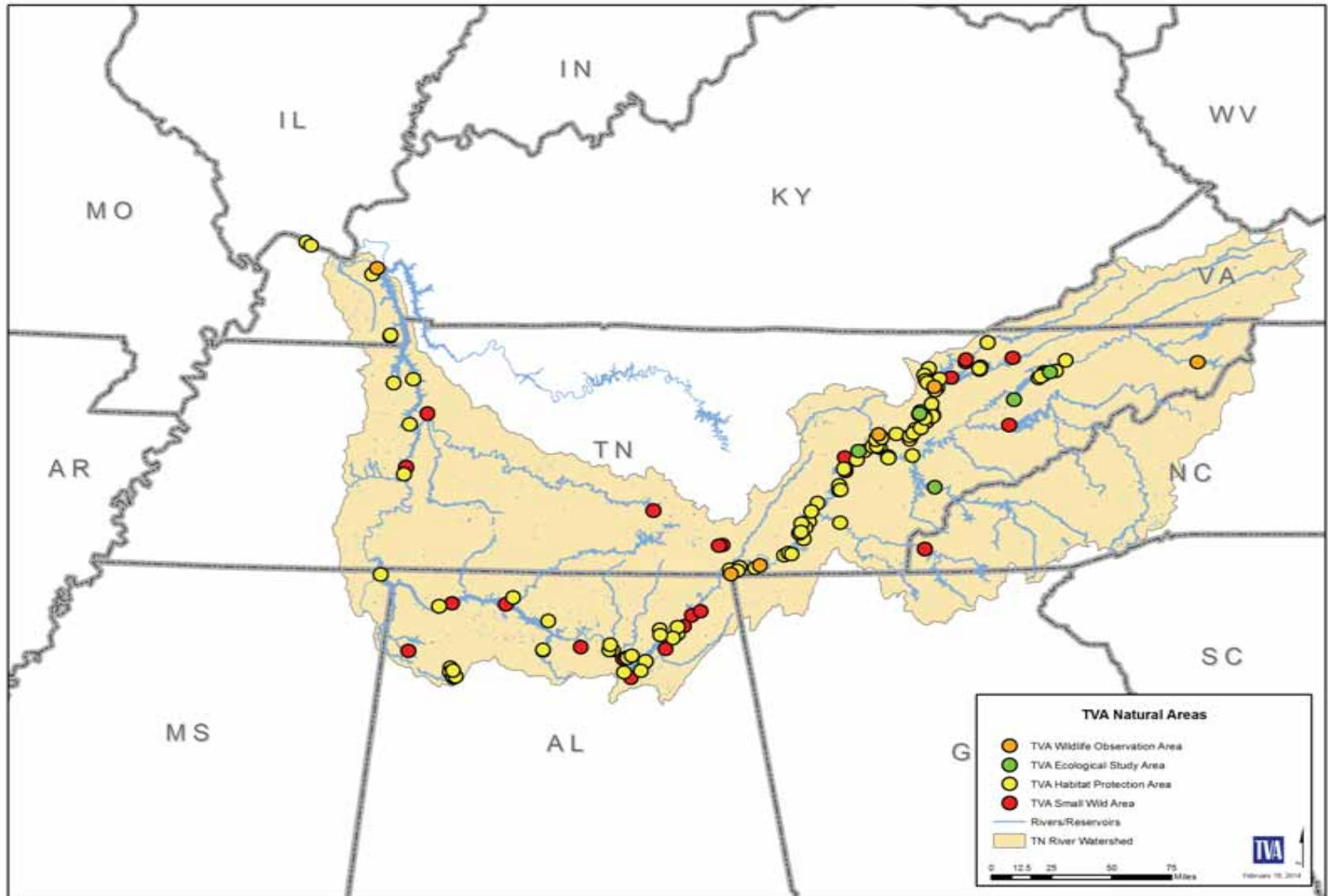


Worthington Cemetery Barrens ESA



Norris Song Bird Trail WOA

Natural Areas on TVA Lands



Natural Areas Program Goals and Activities

- ◆ Identify and protect
- ◆ Provide outdoor recreation
- ◆ Provide ecological research and environmental education
- ◆ Promote cooperative preservation efforts
- ◆ Increase public awareness

Rare and endemic species habitat



Green Pitcher Plant
(*Sarracenia oreophila*)



Large-flowered Skullcap
(*Scutellaria montana*)

Unique or exemplary geological features or biological communities



Ruth's Golden Aster
(*Pityopsis ruthii*)



Little Cedar Mountain
SWA



John Beck's Leafcup
(*Polymnia johnbeckii*)

TVA Identify and Protect



View of the Tennessee River Gorge from Raccoon Mountain WOA

TVA Outdoor Recreation

- ◆ Provide low impact recreation
- ◆ Trails, overlooks, primitive campsites, and national recreation trails (designated within TVA natural areas)
- ◆ Hiking, bird-watching, wildlife viewing

Lady's Bluff
Small Wild Area



- ◆ Cooperate with scientific community
- ◆ Communicate with the academic sector
- ◆ Exchange information regarding species, cave protection, and designated critical habitats with federal and state agencies



Spring Pygmy Sunfish
(*Elassoma alabamae*)

Pryor Branch HPA



TVA Partnerships and Outreach

- ◆ Collaborative forums and planning
- ◆ Cooperative projects
- ◆ Community outreach
 - Seasonal hikes
 - Wildflower walks
 - Volunteer opportunities (National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day)
- ◆ Develop more “Friends of...” groups



Norris River Bluff SWA Trail

NRP Objectives for Natural Areas

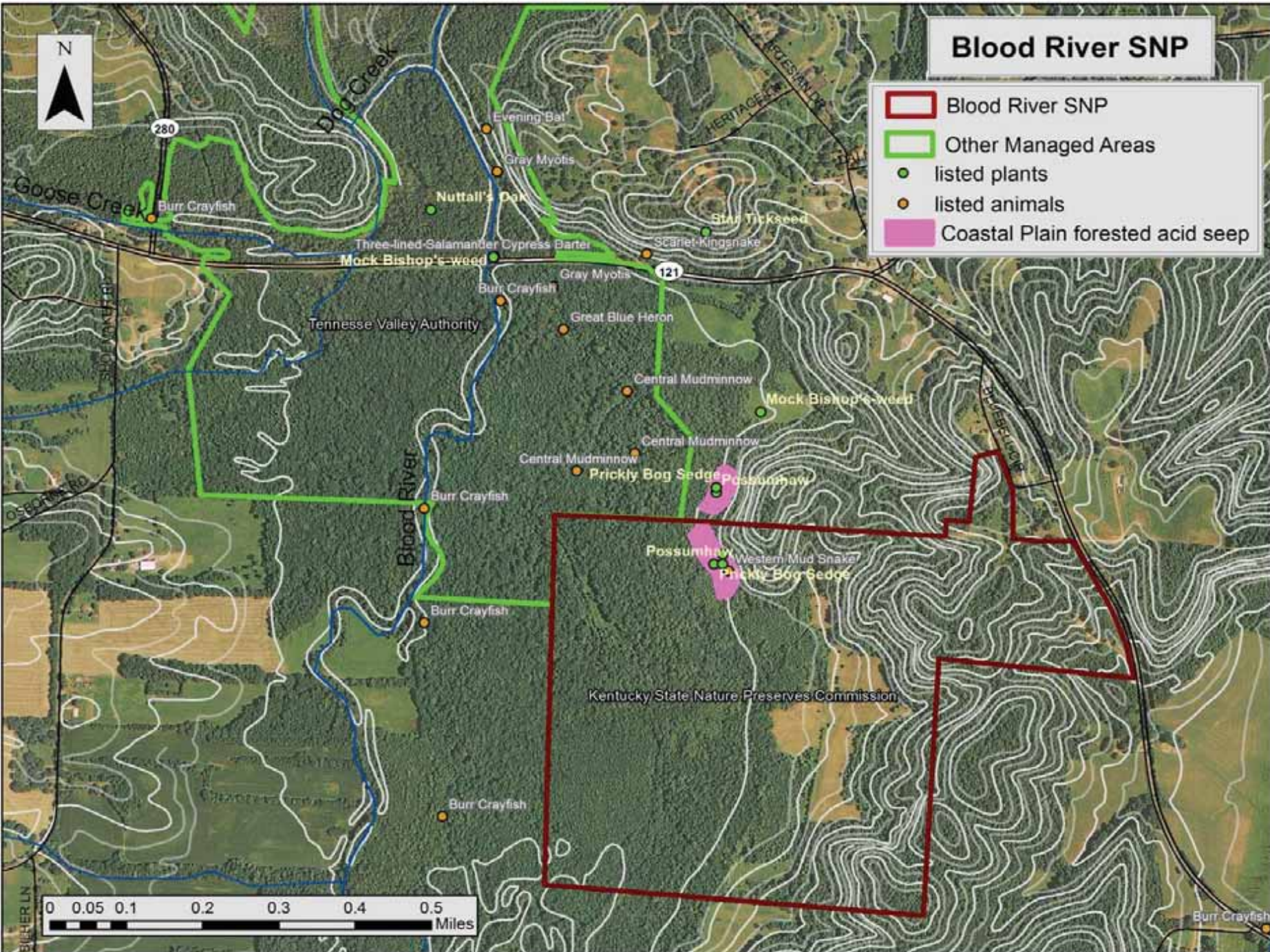
- ◆ Monitoring schedule was developed to monitor and assess TVA's natural areas using a prioritized list of maintenance or improvement needs (assess approximately 1/3 of natural areas annually)
- ◆ Program Guidelines were developed that provide a framework for comprehensive natural area management plans (15 per year)
- ◆ Natural Area designation criteria tool and process was developed to designate new, make additions to, or remove existing natural areas on TVA-managed lands

Natural Areas Program Alignment

- ◆ Archaeological Monitoring and Protection (Cultural)
- ◆ Threatened and Endangered Species Protection
- ◆ Lands Planning
- ◆ Forest Management
- ◆ Invasive Species Management
- ◆ Trails Management
- ◆ Habitat Enhancement
- ◆ Environmental Education
- ◆ Volunteers

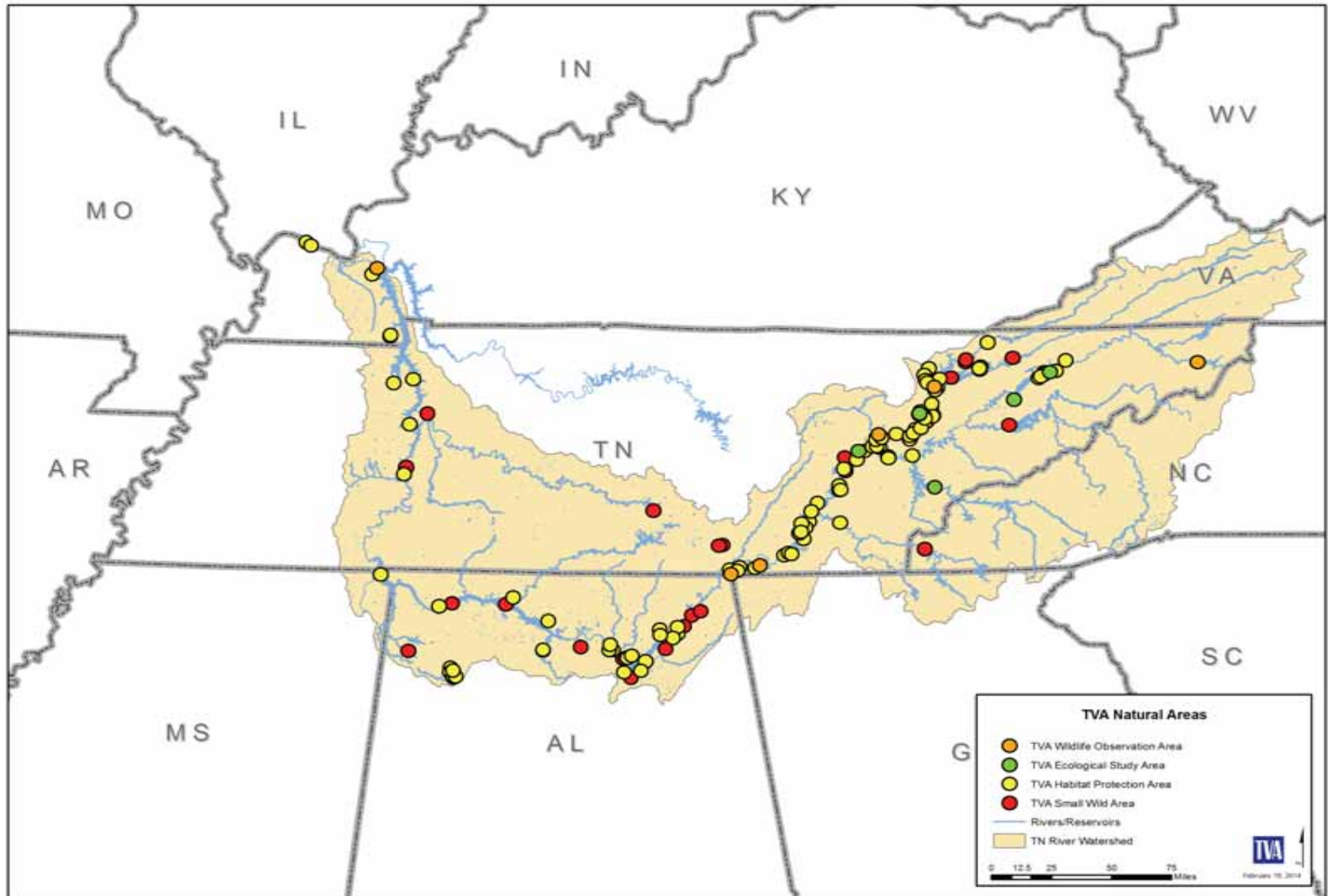
Blood River SNP

-  Blood River SNP
-  Other Managed Areas
-  listed plants
-  listed animals
-  Coastal Plain forested acid seep



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles

Natural Areas on TVA Lands



Future of the Natural Areas Program

- ◆ Develop external website
- ◆ Increase public awareness
- ◆ Establish and retain partners
- ◆ Implement habitat enhancement
- ◆ Implement trail improvement projects