

T E N N E S S E E   V A L L E Y   A U T H O R I T Y



**Multiple Reservoir Land Management Plans  
Environmental Impact Statement**

**Scoping Report**

JULY 2016



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## Introduction

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposes to develop Reservoir Land Management Plans (RLMPs) for public lands surrounding eight reservoirs within the TVA service area and to update its 2011 Comprehensive Valleywide Land Plan (CVLP) to incorporate the new planning decisions. All lands under TVA stewardship around the following reservoirs, a total of approximately 138,322 acres, are under consideration in this planning process:

- Chickamauga (TN)
- Fort Loudoun (TN)
- Great Falls (TN)
- Kentucky (KY/TN)
- Nickajack (TN)
- Normandy (TN)
- Wheeler (AL)
- Wilson (AL)

The RLMPs would guide land use approvals, private water use facility permitting, and resource management decisions on TVA-managed public land around these reservoirs. The plans are needed to make land planning on these eight reservoirs consistent with TVA Land Policy (2006) and TVA's goals for managing natural resources on public lands.

On March 3, 2016, TVA published a [Notice of Intent](#) (Notice) in the Federal Register to conduct the environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and published information about the review and planning effort on the TVA webpage (see Appendix A for the Notice). TVA also notified the media and numerous individuals, organizations, and intergovernmental partners of the review. The Notice initiated a 30-day public scoping period, which concluded on April 4, 2016. As stated in the Notice, TVA determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be completed.

This Scoping Report describes the internal and public scoping for relevant issues relating to this land use planning effort and the outreach conducted by TVA to notify the public. The Scoping Report also documents the input submitted to TVA by the public and intergovernmental entities during the public scoping period.

## TVA's Objectives

In November 2006, the TVA Board of Directors approved the TVA Land Policy to govern the retention, disposal, and planning of interests in real property. This policy provides for the continued development of RLMPs for reservoir properties with substantial public input and with approval of the TVA Board of Directors. Up-to-date RLMPs are needed to make land planning allocations on reservoirs consistent with the TVA Land Policy and the CVLP to incorporate TVA's goals for managing natural resources on public lands.

The purpose of TVA's RLMP planning process is to apply a systematic method of evaluating and identifying the most suitable uses of TVA public lands in furtherance of TVA's responsibilities under the TVA Act. The planning process uses resource data, staff expertise, stakeholder input, and suitability and capability analyses. The RLMP planning process also supports compliance with applicable state and federal regulations and executive orders, and helps ensure the protection of significant resources, including threatened and endangered

species, cultural resources, wetlands, unique habitats, natural areas, water quality, and the visual character of the reservoirs.

TVA's natural resources management strategy promotes the implementation of sustainable, cost-effective practices to balance protection and enhancement of ecological and cultural resources with providing multiple uses of the public lands. Resource management is based on cooperation, communication, coordination, and consideration of stakeholders potentially affected by resource management. TVA recognizes that the management or use of one resource affects the management or use of others; therefore, an integrated approach through the planning process is more effective than considering resources individually. Through this approach, TVA ensures that resource stewardship issues and stakeholder interests are considered and conflicts are minimized.

## **Background**

Shortly after its creation in 1933, TVA began a dam and reservoir construction program that required the purchase of approximately 1.3 million acres of land for the creation of 46 reservoirs within the Tennessee Valley region. Most of these lands are located underneath the water of the reservoir system or have since been sold by TVA or transferred to other state or federal agencies. Today, approximately 293,000 acres of land along TVA reservoirs are managed by TVA for the benefit of the public. TVA manages these public lands to protect the integrated operation of the TVA reservoir and power systems, to provide for appropriate public use and enjoyment of the reservoir system, and to provide for continuing economic growth in the Tennessee Valley. In order to systematically manage these reservoir lands, TVA develops land use plans to integrate land and water program goals, provide for optimum public benefit, and balance competing and sometimes conflicting resource uses. In managing public lands and resources under its authority, TVA also seeks to provide effective and efficient management of natural, cultural, visual and recreation resources to meet all regulatory requirements and applicable guidelines.

TVA develops RLMPs using a single-use tract allocation methodology, which defines separate tracts of reservoir land and allocates those tracts and affiliated land rights to one of the following land use zones:

- Zone 1 Non-TVA Shoreland<sup>1</sup>
- Zone 2 Project Operations
- Zone 3 Sensitive Resource Management
- Zone 4 Natural Resource Conservation
- Zone 5 Industrial
- Zone 6 Developed Recreation
- Zone 7 Shoreline Access

The RLMP planning process incorporates the assessment of the environmental impacts associated with land use allocations and provides for public involvement in the decision-making process. Once developed, the RLMPs guide future land use approvals, private water use facility permitting, and resource management decisions on TVA-managed reservoir lands.

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<sup>1</sup> Lands around TVA reservoirs that are not owned and managed by TVA are identified as Zone 1 and are excluded from the land use planning process. TVA RLMPs do not address the management of these lands.

On August 18, 2011, the TVA Board of Directors (Board) accepted TVA's Natural Resource Plan (NRP) and authorized the Chief Executive Officer to implement the NRP to guide TVA's natural resource management in the areas of biological, cultural, and water resources management, recreation management, public engagement, and reservoir lands planning. As part of the NRP, TVA approved the CVLP to guide use of approximately 293,000 acres of TVA-managed property on 46 reservoirs. TVA established CVLP target ranges for each land use zone based on existing land plans and on "Rapid Land Assessments"<sup>2</sup> conducted by TVA specialists during the development of the NRP. These ranges are targets within which TVA intends to maintain a desired balance of shoreline development, recreational use, sensitive and natural resource management, and other uses. The CVLP and its targets enable TVA and the public to consider those allocations across the reservoir system and determine whether too much or too little attention is being given to particular land uses on a system-wide basis.

In approving the CVLP, the Board directed TVA staff to finish planning the eight reservoirs in Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee within the first five years of implementation. With the completion of these eight plans, all TVA land plans will be based on a single-use tract allocation methodology, ensuring that future management policies can be consistently applied across the region, as intended under TVA's 2011 Natural Resource Plan.<sup>3</sup> Completing RLMPs for all of the reservoirs on which it manages land allows TVA to update its allocation ranges based on complete RLMP efforts and implement the CVLP planning model described in the NRP. The outcomes of each planning effort will be included in periodic updates of the NRP, and TVA will track land use allocation changes to ensure that the reallocated land uses continue to fall within the CVLP total allocation percentages. As the NRP is updated, the CVLP will be updated accordingly.

Of the eight reservoirs for which TVA is proposing RLMPs, seven already have land use plans, but these plans were developed using different methodology and land use categories; the seven plans for the reservoirs remain in effect. Two reservoirs (Fort Loudoun and Normandy) were planned using TVA's "Forecast System" in the 1960s or 1970s, with the following land use allocations: Dam Reservation, Powerhouse Reservation, Public Recreation, Agricultural Research, Industry, Construction and Maintenance, Reservoir Operations, and Commercial Recreation. Four reservoirs (Chickamauga, Kentucky, Nickajack, and Wheeler) were planned in the 1980s and 1990s under the "Multiple-Use Tract Allocation Methodology" with the following land uses allocations: Wildlife Management, Forest Management, Recreation, Cultural Resources Management, Agriculture, Navigation, Visual Protection, Open Space, Special Management Areas, and Industrial Sites. A land plan has never been developed for Great Falls Reservoir, and only a portion of Wilson Reservoir has been planned previously. While none of the parcels on the eight reservoirs have been formally allocated to any of the seven single-use allocation zones, TVA has informally assigned the parcels to the single-use zone that best matches the current zoning under the Forecast System or Multiple-Use zoning methodology.

At the conclusion of this planning effort, then, TVA will have new RLMPs for the eight reservoirs and the CVLP allocations will reflect the most recent decisions of the RLMPs.

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<sup>2</sup> The Rapid Lands Assessment methodology was developed to quickly convert the Forecast System designations and Multiple Use Tract Allocations to Single Use Parcel Allocations or zones in order to develop TVA's NRP. For more information, see Appendix G of the [NRP Final Environmental Impact Statement \(2011\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> Because the lands surrounding the Beech River Development Projects in Tennessee are managed consistent with an agreement with the Beech River Development Agency, TVA does not intend to draft RLMPs for these reservoirs.

## **Environmental Review Process**

NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider and study the potential environmental consequences of major actions. The NEPA review process is intended to help Federal agencies make decisions that are based on an understanding of the action's impacts and, if necessary, to take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment (40 CFR 1500.1(c)). NEPA also requires that Federal agencies provide opportunities for public involvement in the decision-making process (for more information, visit [www.NEPA.gov](http://www.NEPA.gov)).

As noted, TVA intends to prepare an EIS to consider the eight proposed RLMPs and CVLP update. An EIS is the most intensive level of NEPA review. During the completion of the EIS, the public and other environmental and permitting agencies have opportunities to provide input on the development of the environmental review. After considering input from the scoping period, TVA will develop and publish a draft EIS that will be provided to the public and intergovernmental partners for additional comment. During the public comment period on the draft EIS, TVA plans to conduct public meetings around the region. After the public review period, TVA will make revisions, if necessary, and publish a final EIS. Comments on the draft EIS will be addressed by TVA in the final EIS. TVA will make final land use decisions after the final EIS is published.

During the initial public scoping period in March and April 2016, TVA estimated that the draft EIS would be published in November 2016, the final EIS would be published in the summer of 2017, and a final decision would also be made in autumn 2017.

## **TVA's Multiple RLMPs EIS Webpage**

TVA is utilizing its existing corporate website as the primary platform for public outreach. The project website – [www.tva.gov/landplansreview](http://www.tva.gov/landplansreview) - is intended to serve as the primary hub for distributing information to the public. Visitors can navigate from the project website to other websites for additional information pertaining to the proposed RLMP for each of the eight reservoirs. Information available on these websites includes:

- Current and proposed RLMPs for each reservoir parcel
- Maps of each reservoir identifying each TVA parcel
- Previous, relevant environmental reviews of reservoir plans
- Information about TVA's Comprehensive Valley-wide Land Plan and proposed allocation changes
- An overview of TVA's reservoir land management planning process
- An overview of the NEPA environmental review process
- Contact information for the TVA project leads

During the scoping period, the webpage directed the public to submit scoping comments via email or mail to Matthew Higdon, TVA's NEPA Project Manager. Those interested in the proposed land use plans and TVA's planning process were directed to contact Heather Montgomery, TVA's Senior Program Manager for Reservoir Land Planning. In addition to directing the public to submit their comments via email or mail, TVA provided a web-based comment submittal form on the project website during the scoping period. Public comments are included in Appendix B.



## Public Outreach During Scoping Period

As noted, TVA's public scoping period was initiated in early March 2016 with the publication in the Federal Register of a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed reservoir land uses.

At the start of the scoping period, TVA issued a press release announcing that public input was being sought on the proposed plans; media outlets across the region published or broadcast stories based on the release, including newspapers in Knoxville and Chattanooga (see Appendix C for the press release).

TVA also developed an initial project mailing list and sent postcards to notify those on the list of the project. The mailing list was derived from prior stewardship and natural resource planning efforts and included TVA partners and others that have expressed an interest in TVA natural resources and public lands management. Almost 450 postcards were mailed.

At this time, TVA also placed newspaper advertisements in papers around the region to provide notice of the planning effort and invite public comments (see Appendix D for copy of the advertisements). Advertisements were placed in the following newspapers: Calvert City Lake News (Kentucky), Florence Times Daily (Alabama), Decatur Daily (Alabama), Huntsville Times (Alabama), Paris Post Intelligencer (Tennessee), Tullahoma News (Tennessee), The Sparta Expositor (Tennessee), Chattanooga Times Free Press (Tennessee), Cleveland Banner (Tennessee), Dayton Daily News (Tennessee), Lenoir City News Herald (Tennessee), and the Knoxville News Sentinel (Tennessee).

## Issues Addressed During Scoping Period

In its Notice and on the website, TVA stated that it had identified a number of environmental and socioeconomic issues that may be affected by changes to land use allocations in its land use plans. TVA solicited feedback from the public during the scoping period on these issues and asked that new issues or information about other concerns also be brought to TVA's attention. Based on initial internal scope of potentially relevant and significant issues, TVA anticipates that the major issues to be addressed in the EIS include:

- land uses
- prime farmland
- recreation
- terrestrial ecology (plants and wildlife)
- aquatic ecology
- threatened and endangered species
- water quality
- wetlands
- floodplains
- air quality
- cultural and historic resources
- managed areas and ecologically significant sites
- aesthetics and visual resources
- noise
- socioeconomic resources

TVA's allocation of parcels to particular land use zones during the planning process is an administrative process that does not result in direct environmental impacts. However, the types of actions that TVA would allow to occur in each land use zone could eventually have varying environmental impacts to resources when activities are permitted in the future based on the land use plans. The scope of the environmental analysis, then, will be programmatic in nature and will address the general types of environmental impacts from the types of activities that would be permissible within the six TVA land use zones identified above. Generally, impact analysis will focus on the affected resources on tracts for which TVA proposes allocations to change

from a less developed use (Zones 3 and 4) to a more developed use (Zones 2, 5, 6). The scope of the EIS does not include specific ground disturbing activities within particular zones.

## **Summary of Public Scoping Feedback**

TVA received a wide variety of comments and opinions regarding future management of TVA public lands on these reservoirs and will consider the input in developing its Draft EIS.

TVA received a total of 51 submissions from members of the public and intergovernmental entities (50 email or online comment form submittals and 1 mailed letter). Of the 51 submissions, 40 were from members of the public and 11 were from state or Federal entities. (Comment submissions from the public are included in Appendix B and comments from state or Federal entities are included in Appendix F.)

Of the 51 submissions, 24 individuals provided comments pertaining to Normandy Reservoir. Of these comments, 19 requested that TVA permit horseback riding on TVA lands on Normandy Reservoir. These horseback riding enthusiasts noted their dissatisfaction that TVA no longer allows riding on trails on reservoir parcels that have been available in the past. Two commenters urged TVA to protect the Short Springs Natural Area and not to consider a proposal by the Tennessee Duck River Development Agency to raise the dam (which would inundate portions of the Natural Area). One person expressed frustration with the current management of and access to two campgrounds on Normandy Reservoir and one person stated that TVA should install benches and play areas at Normandy Dam to make the location more appealing to visitors. One commenter asked why TVA proposes to change the zone allocations of Parcels 13, 15, and 16 in the Normandy RLMP.

In addition to the 19 submissions pertaining to horseback riding on Normandy Reservoir, an additional 6 commenters urged TVA to allow horseback riding on all TVA lands.

Three individuals provided general comments regarding TVA's management of its public lands. One person urged TVA to prioritize the study, conservation, and management of prehistoric and historic rock art sites. One commenter expressed an appreciation that TVA provides recreational use of public lands, but stated that recreation access should be expanded for a growing population by improving vehicular access to areas and reducing the size of areas used primarily for primitive recreation such as hunting and backpacking. One person recommended that TVA identify and allocate parcels for disposal and recommended that unneeded TVA lands (particularly narrow strips of reservoir land with back-lying private properties) be sold to help fund TVA stewardship programs, lower TVA electric rates, and benefit the area's economy. This person also provided examples of parcels on Chickamauga and Kentucky Reservoirs for which TVA has failed to provide adequate stewardship and stated that poorly managed TVA lands should be sold to those who can properly manage them.

Four individuals identified concerns relating to specific TVA parcels on Fort Loudoun, Kentucky, Nickajack, and Wheeler Reservoirs. Comments regarding TVA parcels on Fort Loudoun and Kentucky Reservoirs pertained to obtaining shoreline access for water use facilities. One individual raised questions about lands adjacent to a barge loading facility on Nickajack Reservoir, and one person stated that lands on the Elk River on Wheeler Reservoir should not be allocated for industrial purposes.

TVA received two other comments from members of the public during the scoping period. One individual requested more information about TVA's proposed RLMP for Great Falls Reservoir

and was concerned that the management of the state park would be affected. One person requested hardcopies of the CVLP and expressed a particular interest in Tellico Reservoir.

### Scoping Comments from other Agencies and Officials

At the beginning of the public scoping period, TVA notified by letter almost 100 local and state government entities and other federal agencies about the planning effort. TVA’s notification letter to agencies is found in Appendix E. The list of intergovernmental entities notified by TVA is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1: Agencies Receiving Notice of TVA’s Scoping Period**

<b>Federal Agencies</b>	
<b>Coast Guard</b>	Marine Safety Detachment, Nashville, Tennessee
<b>Department of Army, Corps of Engineers</b>	Memphis District, Memphis, Tennessee Mobile District, Mobile, Alabama Nashville District, Nashville, Tennessee Norfolk District, Norfolk, Virginia Regulatory Office, Asheville, North Carolina Regulatory Office, Decatur, Alabama Regulatory Office, Lenoir City, Tennessee Vicksburg District, Vicksburg, Mississippi
<b>Federal Highway Administration</b>	North Carolina Division, Raleigh, North Carolina
<b>Fish and Wildlife Service</b>	Abingdon, Virginia Asheville, North Carolina Athens, Georgia Cookeville, Tennessee Daphne, Alabama Decatur, Alabama Frankfort, Kentucky Gloucester, Virginia Jackson, Mississippi Southeast Region, Atlanta, Georgia
<b>Forest Service</b>	Chattahoochee/Oconee National Forests, Gainesville, Georgia Cherokee National Forest, Cleveland, Tennessee Forest Service, Land Between the Lakes, Golden Pond, Kentucky Forest Service Region 8, Atlanta, Georgia National Forests in Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama National Forests in North Carolina, Asheville, North Carolina
<b>National Park Service</b>	Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, Tennessee Southeast Region, Atlanta, Georgia
<b>Natural Resources</b>	State Conservationist, Alabama

<b>Conservation Service</b>	State Conservationist, Georgia State Conservationist, Kentucky State Conservationist, Mississippi State Conservationist, North Carolina State Conservationist, Tennessee State Conservationist, Virginia
<b>State Agencies</b>	
<b>Alabama</b>	Department of Agriculture and Industries, Montgomery Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Montgomery Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Montgomery Department of Environmental Management, Montgomery Department of Transportation, Montgomery Forestry Commission, Montgomery Historical Commission, Montgomery
<b>Georgia</b>	Department of Economic Development, Atlanta Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta and Gainesville offices Jewett Center for Historic Preservation, Stockbridge
<b>Kentucky</b>	Department for Natural Resources, Frankfort Department for Environmental Protection, Frankfort Department of Fish and Wildlife, Frankfort Energy and Environment Cabinet, Frankfort Heritage Council and State Historic Preservation Officer, Frankfort State Clearinghouse, Frankfort Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, Frankfort
<b>Mississippi</b>	Department of Archives and History, Jackson Department of Environmental Quality, Jackson Department of Finance and Administration, Jackson Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, Jackson Mississippi Development Authority, Jackson
<b>North Carolina</b>	Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Raleigh State Clearinghouse, Raleigh Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh
<b>Tennessee</b>	Department of Agriculture, Nashville Department of Economic and Community Development, Nashville Department of Environment and Conservation, Nashville Department of Tourism Development, Nashville Department of Transportation, Nashville Historical Commission, Nashville Tennessee Duck River Development Agency

	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville
<b>Virginia</b>	Department of Conservation and Recreation, Richmond Department of Environmental Quality, Richmond and Abingdon Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

TVA received comments from several state entities, including the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), the State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) of Alabama, Kentucky, Virginia, and Georgia, and the Tennessee Duck River Development Agency. Each SHPO expressed interest in the project and a desire to formally consult under the National Historic Preservation Act. The Tennessee Duck River Development Agency, a regional development agency established by the state of Tennessee, expressed its interest in long-term water supply needs in the region and operations of Normandy Reservoir.

Several federal agencies also responded. TVA received agency letters of response from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia offices; the Southeast Region of the National Park Service; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District. The Fish and Wildlife Service had numerous comments urging TVA to continue to manage lands around several of the eight reservoirs to promote conservation of specific sensitive species and requested that TVA consider migratory bird species during its planning effort and environmental review. The National Park Service expressed interest in the planning effort and concern for the potential impacts on sections of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

As noted above, the full comments of state and federal entities are found in Appendix F.

TVA will notify federally-listed tribes and invite their participation in consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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## **Appendix A: Federal Register Notice of Intent**

and the Hellenistic Kingdoms of the Ancient World,” imported from abroad for temporary exhibition within the United States, are of cultural significance. The objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with the foreign owners or custodians. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York, from on or about April 11, 2016, until on or about July 17, 2016, and at possible additional exhibitions or venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. I have ordered that Public Notice of these Determinations be published in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, including a list of the imported objects to which this notice pertains, contact the Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs in the Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202–632–6471; email: [section2459@state.gov](mailto:section2459@state.gov)). The mailing address is U.S. Department of State, L/DP, SA–5, Suite 5H03, Washington, DC 20522–0505.

Dated: February 25, 2016.

**Mark Taplin,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2016–04834 Filed 3–2–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710–05–P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

[Docket No. FD 35874]

### **Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company—Track Construction and Operation Exemption—in Howard County, Texas**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of construction and operation exemption.

**SUMMARY:** The Board is granting an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 for Lone Star Railroad, Inc., to construct and operate a new line of railroad in Howard County, Tex. The Line would be used to provide rail service to an industrial park near Big Spring, Tex., via a connection with an existing Union Pacific Railroad Company mainline that extends between Dallas and El Paso, Tex. This exemption is subject to environmental mitigation conditions.

The Board, however, is denying, without prejudice, the petition for exemption with respect to Southern Switching Company’s proposed operation of the newly constructed line

because the record does not support the authority requested.

**DATES:** The exemption with respect to the proposed construction by Lone Star Railroad, Inc., will be effective on April 2, 2016; petitions to reconsider or reopen must be filed by March 23, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 35874 must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, one copy of each filing in this proceeding must be served on petitioners’ representative: Thomas F. McFarland, P.C., 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890, Chicago, IL 60604–1112.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Allison Davis at (202) 245–0378. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at (800) 877–8339. Copies of written filings will be available for viewing and self-copying at the Board’s Public Docket Room, Room 131, and will be posted to the Board’s Web site.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Additional information is contained in the Board’s decision. Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at [WWW.STB.DOT.GOV](http://WWW.STB.DOT.GOV).

By the Board, Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller, and Commissioner Begeman.

**Jeffrey Herzig,**

*Clearance Clerk.*

[FR Doc. 2016–04668 Filed 3–2–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915–01–P**

## **TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY**

### **Environmental Impact Statement—Multiple Reservoirs Land Management Plans**

**AGENCY:** Tennessee Valley Authority.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) addressing the impacts of alternative plans for managing public lands on eight TVA reservoirs in Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee: Chickamauga, Fort Loudoun, Great Falls, Kentucky, Nickajack, Normandy, Wheeler and Wilson. TVA also proposes to use the information included in these eight reservoir land management plans (RLMP) to revise its Comprehensive Valleywide Land Plan. Public comment is invited concerning the scope of the EIS, including the appropriate uses for TVA-managed public lands on these

reservoirs and environmental issues that should be addressed as a part of this EIS.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 4, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to Matthew Higdon, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive (WT11D), Knoxville, Tennessee 37902. Comments may also be emailed to [mshigdon@tva.gov](mailto:mshigdon@tva.gov) or submitted on the TVA Web site at: <https://www.tva.com/Environment/Environmental-Stewardship/Environmental-Reviews>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the EIS process, contact Matthew Higdon, NEPA Specialist, by email at [mshigdon@tva.gov](mailto:mshigdon@tva.gov), or by phone at (865) 632–8051. For information about the reservoir land plans, contact Heather Montgomery by email at [hlmcgee@tva.gov](mailto:hlmcgee@tva.gov) or by phone at (256) 386–3803.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is provided in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality’s regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 to 1508) and TVA’s procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR part 800).

TVA is a corporate agency and instrumentality of the United States, established by an act of Congress in 1933, to foster the social and economic welfare of the people of the Tennessee Valley region and to promote the proper use and conservation of the region’s natural resources. Shortly after its creation, TVA began a dam and reservoir construction program that required the purchase of approximately 1.3 million acres of land for the creation of 46 reservoirs within the Tennessee Valley region. Most of these lands are located underneath the water of the reservoir system or have since been sold by TVA or transferred to other state or federal agencies. Today, approximately 293,000 acres of land along TVA reservoirs are managed by TVA for the benefit of the public.

### **Reservoir Land Management Plans**

TVA’s eight RLMPs will address management of approximately 138,222 acres of TVA-managed public lands surrounding the following reservoirs: Chickamauga, Fort Loudon, Great Falls, Nickajack and Normandy in Tennessee; Wheeler and Wilson in Alabama; and Kentucky in Tennessee and Kentucky. In the EIS, TVA will consider the potential environmental impacts of the eight RLMPs and the allocation of



reservoir parcels to one of seven land use zones: Non-TVA Shoreland, Project Operations, Sensitive Resource Management, Natural Resource Conservation, Industrial, Developed Recreation and Shoreline Access. These allocations will then be used to guide the types of activities that will be considered on each parcel of land. Proposed allocations will take into account past land use allocations, current land uses, existing land rights (easements, leases, etc.), public needs, the presence of sensitive environmental resources, and TVA policies. The RLMPs and parcel allocations would establish clear blueprints for future management of the public land TVA manages on these reservoirs.

TVA has developed a proposed RLMP for each reservoir and made initial land use zone allocations for each reservoir parcel. These proposed RLMPs are the result of TVA's initial review of the suitable uses of parcels at each reservoir and will be considered as an Action Alternative in the EIS. TVA invites the public to review the proposed plans and parcel allocations on the TVA Web site during the scoping period and to submit comments, questions or suggestions on its proposal. Additional Action Alternative(s) may be developed based on public input submitted to TVA during the scoping period. If multiple Action Alternatives are considered, the primary difference between alternatives would be the amount of land allocated to each of these zones. Typically, lands currently committed to a specific use would be allocated in the RLMP to that current use; however, changes that support TVA goals and objectives will be considered. Committed lands include those subject to existing long-term easements, leases, licenses and contracts; lands with outstanding land rights; and lands that are necessary for TVA project operations.

In the EIS, TVA will also consider a No Action alternative, under which TVA would continue to rely on previous land planning designations or current management of parcels. Of the eight reservoirs, seven have land use plans that were developed using different methodology and land use categories. Two reservoirs (Fort Loudoun and Normandy) were planned using TVA's Forecast System in the 1960s or 1970s; four reservoirs (Chickamauga, Kentucky, Nickajack, and Wheeler) were planned in the 1980s and 1990s under the Multiple-Use Tract Allocation Methodology. A land plan has never been developed for Great Falls Reservoir, and only a portion of Wilson Reservoir has been planned previously. TVA will apply the single-use allocation

methodology in developing new RLMPs for the eight reservoirs. Once completed, all TVA land plans will be based on the same methodology, ensuring that future management policies can be consistently applied across the region, as intended under TVA's 2011 Natural Resource Plan.

#### Comprehensive Valleywide Land Plan

In its Natural Resource Plan, TVA established a Comprehensive Valleywide Land Plan (CVLP) to guide uses of the 293,000 acres of TVA-managed property on 46 reservoirs. The CVLP identifies target ranges for different types of land use allocations for the region. When establishing the CVLP in 2011, TVA based these ranges on parcel allocations from existing plans as well as "rapid assessments," which were initial allocation designations of reservoir parcels conducted in order to establish an initial CVLP target range. Since 2011, TVA has conducted more thorough assessments of parcels on the eight reservoirs and found in many cases that the initial allocations do not accurately reflect actual uses of parcels, the presence of sensitive resources, or existing land rights or restrictions for parcels. Incorporating these corrections into the proposed RLMPs would necessitate minor revisions to the CVLP target ranges. Therefore, as part of this planning effort, TVA proposes to revise the CVLP ranges accordingly to the zone allocations proposed in the Action Alternative(s). The proposed revisions to the CVLP target ranges do not reflect a change to any other decisions made by TVA in its Natural Resource Plan. TVA remains committed to implementing its Natural Resource Plan and meeting the goals and objectives of the CVLP.

In addition to the Natural Resource Plan, this planning process is necessary to comply with TVA's Land Policy (2006), which governs the planning, retention and disposal of land under TVA's stewardship. The reservoir land planning process provides a consistent method of evaluating suitable uses of TVA public land in a manner that systematically incorporates information, analyses, and input from the public, stakeholders, partners and TVA specialists, and protects significant resources (including threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, wetlands, unique habitats, natural areas, water quality and the visual character of the reservoir). This planning effort is also consistent with TVA's Shoreline Management Initiative (SMI). The EIS will tier from the Final EIS for the SMI (1998), which evaluated alternative policies for managing residential shoreline development on TVA

reservoirs. Residential shoreline properties occur on the eight reservoirs, and the proposed RLMPs will not affect the policies for their management.

#### Scoping Process

Public scoping is integral to the process for implementing NEPA and ensures that issues are identified early and properly studied; issues of little significance do not consume substantial time and effort; and analysis is thorough and balanced. TVA's NEPA procedures require that the scoping process commence soon after a decision has been reached to prepare an EIS to ensure an early and open process for determining the scope and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. TVA anticipates that the major issues addressed in the EIS include water quality, water supply, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, endangered and threatened species, wetlands, prime farmlands, floodplains, recreation, aesthetics including visual resources, land use, historic and archaeological resources and socioeconomic resources.

TVA invites members of the public as well as Federal, state, and local agencies and Native American tribes to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments on the scope should be submitted no later than the date given under the **DATES** section of this notice. Pursuant to the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation implementing Section 106 of the NHPA, TVA also solicits comments on the potential of the proposed Plan to affect historic properties. This notice also provides an opportunity under Executive Orders 11990 and 11988 for early public review of the potential for TVA's Plan to affect wetlands and floodplains, respectively. Please note, any comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and will be available for public inspection.

After consideration of the public's input and analyzing the environmental consequences of each alternative, TVA will issue a draft EIS for public review and comment. TVA will notify the public of the draft EIS' availability and plans to hold public meetings during the review period. TVA expects to release the draft EIS and associated RLMPs in late 2016 and the final EIS and RLMPs in 2017. Once the NEPA review is completed, the final RLMPs and revised CVLP allocations will be submitted to the TVA Board of Directors for approval and adopted as guidelines for management of TVA public land consistent with the agency's

responsibilities under the TVA Act of 1933.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1501.7.

**Wilbourne (Skip) C. Markham,**

*Director, Environmental Permitting and Compliance.*

[FR Doc. 2016-04745 Filed 3-2-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8120-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Public Notice for Waiver for Aeronautical Land-Use Assurance at Fort Worth Spinks Airport, Fort Worth, TX

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent for Waiver of Aeronautical Land-Use.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is considering a proposal to change a portion of the airport from aeronautical use to nonaeronautical use and to authorize the conversion of the airport property. The proposal consists of one parcel of land containing a total of approximately 2.583.

The property was acquired using City and FAA funds through the AIP Program from 1983-1987. The land comprising this parcel is outside the forecasted need for aviation development and, thus, is no longer needed for indirect or direct aeronautical use. The airport wishes to develop this land for compatible commercial, nonaeronautical use. The income from the conversion of this parcel will benefit the aviation community by reinvestment in the airport.

Approval does not constitute a commitment by the FAA to financially assist in the conversion of the subject airport property nor a determination of eligibility for grant-in-aid funding from the FAA. The disposition of proceeds from the conversion of the airport property will be in accordance with FAA's Policy and Procedures Concerning the Use of Airport Revenue, published in the **Federal Register** on February 16, 1999. In accordance with Section 47107(h) of Title 49, United States Code, this notice is required to be published in the **Federal Register** 30 days before modifying the land-use assurance that requires the property to be used for an aeronautical purpose.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 4, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments on this document to Mr. Cameron Bryan, Federal Aviation Administration, Acting Manager, Texas Airports Development Office, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Bill Welstead, Aviation Director, City of Fort Worth, 4201 N. Main St. Suite 200, Fort Worth, TX 76106, telephone (817) 392-5400, or Mr. Anthony Mekhail, Federal Aviation Administration, Texas Airports Development Program Manager, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177, telephone (817) 222-5663, FAX (817) 222-5989. Documents reflecting this FAA action may be reviewed at the above locations.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on 15 January, 2016.

**Ignacio Flores,**

*Manager, Airports Division, FAA, Southwest Region.*

[FR Doc. 2016-04737 Filed 3-2-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Noise Compatibility Program Notice, Lafayette Regional Airport, Lafayette, Louisiana

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announces its findings on the noise compatibility program submitted by Lafayette Airport Commission under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. (the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act, hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and 14 CFR part 150. These findings are made in recognition of the description of Federal and nonfederal responsibilities in Senate Report No. 96-52 (1980). On April 4, 2012, the FAA determined that the noise exposure maps submitted by Lafayette Airport Commission under Part 150 were in compliance with applicable requirements. On November 23, 2015, the FAA approved the Lafayette Regional Airport noise compatibility program. Both of the recommendations of the program were approved.

**DATES:** The effective date of the FAA's approval of the Lafayette Regional Airport noise compatibility program is November 23, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** DOT/FAA Southwest Region, Tim Tandy, Environmental Protection

Specialist, ASW-640D, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, Texas 76177. Telephone (817) 222-5644.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice announces that the FAA has given its overall approval to the noise compatibility program for Lafayette Regional Airport, effective November 23, 2015.

Under section 47504 of the Act, an airport operator who has previously submitted a noise exposure map may submit to the FAA a noise compatibility program which sets forth the measures taken or proposed by the airport operator for the reduction of existing non-compatible land uses and prevention of additional non-compatible land uses within the area covered by the noise exposure maps. The Act requires such programs to be developed in consultation with interested and affected parties including local communities, government agencies, airport users, and FAA personnel.

Each airport noise compatibility program developed in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 150 is a local program, not a Federal program. The FAA does not substitute its judgment for that of the airport proprietor with respect to which measures should be recommended for action. The FAA's approval or disapproval of FAR Part 150 program recommendations is measured according to the standards expressed in Part 150 and the Act and is limited to the following determinations:

a. The noise compatibility program was developed in accordance with the provisions and procedures of FAR Part 150;

b. Program measures are reasonably consistent with achieving the goals of reducing existing non-compatible land uses around the airport and preventing the introduction of additional non-compatible land uses;

c. Program measures would not create an undue burden on interstate or foreign commerce, unjustly discriminate against types or classes of aeronautical uses, violate the terms of airport grant agreements, or intrude into areas preempted by the Federal Government; and

d. Program measures relating to the use of flight procedures can be implemented within the period covered by the program without derogating safety, adversely affecting the efficient use and management of the navigable airspace and air traffic control systems, or adversely affecting other powers and responsibilities of the Administrator prescribed by law.

Specific limitations with respect to FAA's approval of an airport noise

## Appendix B: Comments from the Public

(March 3, 2016 through April 4, 2016)

The unedited comments below were submitted to TVA through TVA's web-based Comment System Form, via email, or by letter.

Fred Hutchinson  
White House, TN  
March 8, 2016

As a Tennessee resident for the past 65 years, and as a stake holder, I would like to make a statement regarding land use around the TVA managed lakes. I am grateful for past opportunities for public access to the many properties that have been made available and I am extremely in favor of keeping access available to the public.

I read a statement recently made by TVA saying, "land use needs and requirements have changed over time, so we want to make sure we have the best possible plan for allocating these valuable public resources for the future." In my opinion, land use requirements have not only changed but have grown substantially due to population growth and also due to changes due to inventions such as ATV's, RV's, and other recreational activities. As the population grows older, recreational vehicle access have become more important for older people to continue accessing land for recreation. Older people still want to camp out, fish, hike, and ride off road vehicles and many of us are no longer able to back pack for miles to camp out away from city lights without the use of vehicles. I would like to point out that many states, including Tennessee, have been buying up huge swaths of land and gating it off to vehicular access. I think it is very important that people have as much access to TVA land as possible. That includes on and off road vehicles to aid in the appreciation of out door activities such as camping, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking. I would also like to point out that hunting seasons in many states have been extended and almost always occur during the very best times of the year for camping, hiking, fishing, and off roading. Therefore, I ask for and suggest that TVA cut back on the length of time allowed for hunting only activities and extend land use available for the other activities mentioned.

Most states have already set aside huge amounts of land as pristine wilderness and forests that almost no one can access except for back packers. Biological diversity has been extremely well protected on state owned lands in Tennessee and most of the Southern and Western states. What is lacking is recreational areas for our growing population. Please, continue making land available for recreation.

Denise Herbert  
Rock Island, TN  
March 8, 2016

I am a resident of Rock Island, TN and saw on Facebook that TVA will be "reviewing land management plans" for the Great Falls area. I was wondering if you could tell me what this actually means. I went to the TVA website that was linked on their page to try to understand better but still don't really understand. What are you actually looking at and what kind of things

could actually change from this reviewing? Rock Island State Park and the Great Falls area are pretty sacred to all of us here in the community so we like to know what's going on.

Guy Foster  
March 8, 2016

I am a property owner in the Fire Lake sub division adjacent to Normandy Lake in Manchester, TN. I have also recently reviewed the purposed changes and have a few questions regarding changes in the near proximity.

1. Parcel 13 change from allocation 3 to 4. The map doesn't state what area was allocated as 3 and in moving to zone 4. What advantages or disadvantages does this have for home owners adjacent to what was zone 3.
2. Parcel 15 and 16 are to be moved to a 2 allocation "developed recreation". What does this mean? Are there plans in place to expand this? How will this property be managed? I have some concern with this, as there is some destruction of the land at parcel 14. This is an unattended boat launch that occasionally attracts undesirable destructive people. If parcel 23 is unmanned, similar abuse may occur.

Rosemary Saczawa  
Maryville, TN  
March 8, 2016

Will you please tell me where I can get printed copies of TVA land management plans? I would like a copy of the valley-wide plan and also of any document specifically about Tellico Lake. I have tried to go online to view the plans, but the documents are incompatible with the software I have on my computer. Besides, I prefer to read print copies of documents!

Tiffany Hartwig  
March 9, 2016

The land at Normandy Lake used to be where my husband and I took our family for a day of horseback riding. This enjoyable family time stopped when TVA closed the land and the trails and ceased allowing trail riding there. I cannot begin to tell you the disappointment my children and husband and I have felt because of that decision. There are not that many public trails to take advantage of and I assume this land that we used is not being used in any way now. Such a shame.

Mike Fann  
March 9, 2016

I would really love to see the land opened back up to the public for horse riding around Normandy lake. Us horse riders contributed to many small business in the Normandy community that have had to either close shop or at least change hands.

Jeffrey Hicks  
Shelbyville, TN  
March 9, 2016

We really need to have the horse riding trails reopened at Normandy. It's really a shame that other TVA properties are being used for horse back riding and this one is not allowed any more. Please reconsider reopening the horse trails in some form. Thank you very much!

Kayla Schlemer  
March 9, 2016

Please reopen the horseback riding trails at Normandy lake. Any consideration would be appreciated. Thank you.

Jacquelyn Elliott Way  
March 9, 2016

Please when doing renovations and making decisions consider letting the horse back trails be used again at Normandy. We have so many wonderful family memories from riding horses together on sunday afternoons on a summer evening. It has killed riding for so many of us because we live in Wartrace and we could trail ride within 15 minutes now the next closest location is over an hour away. The horse back riders love it and keep it clean and all have grown up riding there i hope yall will consider letting riders use the trails again.

Janice Higgins  
Bradyville, TN  
March 9, 2016

Sure would like to see those trails re-opened. And I know I speak for a few hundred that used to ride over there. It's 25 minutes from my house & a great place for a couple hour ride. Before closing we probably rode there 2-3 times a month - occasionally 2 - 3 times a week.

Alicia Avent  
March 9, 2016

Please, please, please open the horse trail around Normandy Lake. Thanks.

Ernie Brewbaker  
March 9, 2016

As an avid horse person, I would like to see Normandy re-open for horseback riding. I know from previous rides and watching a few bad apples, they can ruin the day riding for all. I propose that TVA law enforcement along with local sheriff's offices patrol the areas on weekends and holidays to oversee the dangerous activities by some that was a part of the closure for the horse people a few years ago. I am involved with local Mounted Patrol and Service Horse units and

feel confident that we who are interested in riding again at Normandy can police the activities in the area.

Rhonda Cato  
March 9, 2016

In regards to the horseback riding land at Normandy Lake. Myself and several people in the area would be more than willing to pay a daily or yearly fee in order to use the trails there as well as help to maintain them. There is not a place in Bedford or surrounding counties that has a public place to trail ride and myself and my children really enjoyed the Normandy Lake riding and would like to see it re opened and be glad to do whatever it takes to help with getting it open again. Thank you.

Tammy Burruss  
Shelbyville, TN  
March 9, 2016

I writing regarding the TVA LAND around Normandy Lake. I really wish along with many other Equestrian people that y'all would open it back up to trail riding for horses. We are not against paying a fee to ride there to help upkeep of the land. And some of us have even offered to help keep up the trails ourselves. I've spent a many of hours trail riding there with my family, and friends. We sure do wish it would be reopened. Thank you very much.

Melinda Rosson  
March 9, 2016

I would like to continue riding on the land provided to us by the TVA. Horse back riders are losing our rights and trail access in most places for different reasons. Some places it's development other places it's because of shared land. Horses are unique and require different settings than most hobbies. Please do not stop us and our beloved horses and horse friends from having a safe place for riding and fellowship.

Leslie Perry  
Bradyville, TN  
March 9, 2016

I saw on Facebook tonight that TVA is actually asking the public's opinion on how to manage the acreage around Normandy Lake. I was THRILLED!!!! My husband and I and all our horseback riding buddies rode there for years. We were DEVASTATED when they closed it down to horseback riders. You see, we live in Cannon County. Some of our friends live in Shelbyville. Some are in Manchester. Normandy was the only place that was close enough for us to all meet for a day ride. It is centrally located to us. We spent MANY of our riding days picking up trash there to keep it clean in an effort to keep it open. (A lot of this trash was left by people using the LAKE, not the trails. These were not "horseys folks"!)

While I realize there are rotten apples in every bunch, we made great efforts to keep it clean and we respected the land! I have some friends that gave up riding altogether when TVA shut

us out. Sold their horses, trailers, etc. It was all so sad. I shed many a tear when I look back on all the pictures I took of us riding there. We all miss it so much!!!!

We were told that the erosion was the main reason we were "thrown out". I happen to be a water skier and I have done some fishing in my time, as well. I know that boats' wakes do a lot of damage.....Some of the trails had to be re-routed because of the banks caving in. Our horses were not responsible for that. But boaters have to buy numbers every year....and fishing licenses...why not charge us to ride?? We'd be HAPPY to pay yearly fees to use the land!!! We'd also resume our "cleaning days". One of my friends took pictures of the place where we used to park our trailers after horses were prohibited. There was trash EVERYWHERE!!!! That wasn't a problem when we were there. And maybe if we had to pay to use the trails, it would stop the "riff-raff" from coming out.

I'd do almost anything to get these trails open again. Every time we get together, most of our stories start with "one time at Normandy, my horse...." or "Do you remember that time at Normandy when...." or "if only Normandy was still open....." Several of us have actually been discussing BUYING land somewhere so we can all ride together again. We are verging on desperation to find places to ride. Most of us have small farms, just enough to keep our equine friends on.

I'm sure that the local stores have suffered some loss since we quit going there.....but I don't feel comfortable addressing that particular issue because I don't have the numbers. However; as I mentioned before, we came from several counties to ride there. Gas, snacks, ice, drinks, etc.....We must have had an impact!

PLEASE.....I'm begging you. Literally BEGGING you to help us! If you'll at least CONSIDER having us back, we'd be really grateful.

If there is ANYTHING we can do to persuade you to let us back in, contact me anytime. ANYTHING you can do will be SO appreciated!!!

Linda Grajewski  
Gaits to Heaven  
March 10, 2016

I am a 65 yr old trail rider here in TN. One of the reasons my husband and I chose this area was the access to recreational horse trails close to home. I am also a volunteer who works to make and maintain trails on TWRA properties. We live in Maury County and know many others who have retired and moved to middle Tennessee for this reason also yet our access is now being limited by hunting and the closing of trails we once enjoyed. PLEASE reconsider allowing TVA properties to be used for recreational horse trails. The friends I ride with are mostly older and do NOT drink or abuse the areas we ride in but work to improve them. Don't penalize the many for the actions of a few. Thank you.

Sheryl Howell  
March 10, 2016

Would love to see the horse trails open at Normandy. There are a lot of respectful trailriders that need places to ride. Thank you.

Melissa Sterling  
March 10, 2016

I would like to submit my comment on the EIS scoping in particular related to the public lands at the Normandy Reservoir. A couple of years ago the land around Normandy lake was open to the public for trail riding their horses until the TVA determined that this could no longer be allowed. The area provided for those in Bedford and Coffee counties a local place to day ride horses and feel safe doing so. In my time trail riding the trails cut by the riders I never witnessed an area that was dirty or not maintained and all trail riders were respectful in not leaving trash laying around. I feel it would be an asset to this area of TN to open the land again with trails for riding. The TVA or another operating authority could require annual membership fees or day riding charges to those wishing to ride as well as agreements signed by participants regulated rules of riding the area. Allowing the opportunity to have the use of the land by trail riders would promote growth and generate revenue in the immediate areas by sales of supplies for the participants. My feelings are wide spread in the trail riding community surrounding Normandy reservoir and I hope that in response to the scoping you will see multiple similar comments flow in.

Bobby Mullins  
March 10, 2016

Would like to be able to continue to ride horses on tva property.

Terry and Tina Davenport  
Shelbyville, TN  
March 10, 2016

Thanks for the opportunity for allowing us to share our opinions and comments regarding our local lakes/campgrounds etc.

Normandy lake is a very important and special lake that a lot of folks enjoy. My family has enjoyed it for many years and still enjoying it. We have spent many summers camping at Cedar point camp ground. We would rent a camp site monthly for the whole summer. Our church family would also come occasionally and join us for picnics or youth campouts on our rented site. These were some of the best memories. It also gave other children the opportunity to learn about camping/fishing/etc. It was so much fun! Now that is not allowed. It is restricted to a small amount of folks per campsite. And if they wanted to stay on our rented site, they would have to pay too.

We have not Camped at Cedar Point or Barton Springs in the last 3 or more years. Things have changed so much at these campgrounds. New rules now require an admission fee to even enter the camp ground. This is so frustrating! Sunday afternoon strolls thru the campgrounds are not allowed. Some of the previous campers really took great interest in these campgrounds. Several previous campers have donated their time and resources in helping in the upkeep of the campground, because it was important to keep it OPEN to the community. I understand that it does cost money to upkeep these campgrounds. I don't know all the answers but I do know that we don't have to pay to take my kid to a PARK. Why do I have to pay to take my kid to the lake to let him stick his feet in the water on a Sunday afternoon or to have a weekend picnic with my



family. Lake life is to be fun and family friendly. My husband loves to take Sunday drives to the boat docks to see who is out fishing and to see what kind of fish has been caught. Fisherman love to show off their boats and their fish.

The main reason for this email, is that I want to see these Campgrounds OPEN and I don't think we should have to pay to drive thru or visit the campground. I hope to be able to rent monthly again at these campgrounds. RV camping should cost rent but my senior adult parents coming over to visit and eat supper with us should not have to pay in my opinion.

Thanks for your openness for our concerns. We look forward to camping and boating season!

Sharon Allen  
March 12, 2016

I have been given this email address in reference to the core of engineers property. I moved to Bedford county in 2013, we were allowed to ride horses at Normandy at that time. I loved riding there, I understand there were issues that need to be addressed and resolved. I'm quite confident things can be worked out to the benefit and satisfaction of all involved, if there are discussions and concessions made by all involved. Please consider allowing horseback riding in these areas to resume. Thank you for your time.

Smotherman Family  
March 13, 2016

As an avid horse riding family of 3, we would like to request that TVA land be used for riding. The land around Normandy Lake was a favorite place to ride before it was closed to horses. Please consider reopening it to horses. Most people would even be willing to pay, perhaps an annual fee. Thanks.

Jonannes Loubser  
Johns Creek, SC  
March 7, 2016

Prehistoric and historic period rock art, in the form of pictographs (paintings and drawings with pigment) and petroglyphs (engravings and incisions with hard implements), are known to occur on TVA land. Normally found on a few select cliff faces and some boulders near old trails and/or river courses, these rare and non-renewable cultural resources can tell us a lot about past perceptions and use of landscapes. Fixed on the landscape and in some traditionally-transmitted memories, a number of rock art locales have spiritual significance among Native American Indians who's ancestors once lived in the region. Rock art sites are also significant among archaeologists, who record and analyze them in order to understand past culture history and ongoing significance. Tourists, hikers, canoeists, anglers, and other visitors like to visit and view these rare and somewhat enigmatic sites too. In order to preserve their traditional, research, tourist, and aesthetic significance values for future generations, it is necessary that rock art sites on TVA land be located, recorded, condition assessed, analyzed, interpreted, managed, and presented with controlled public visitation or other means of protection in mind. Once damaged or destroyed through deliberate vandalism, such as graffiti, or by inadvertent damage, such as bumping, nothing can bring the rock art back, bearing in mind that the original creators are long

gone. Proper consultation with all stakeholders (e.g., Native American groups, concerned neighboring landowners and communities), site inventories, site condition assessments, site maps and recording of images, site conditions (i.e., sites devoid of graffiti and other signs of damage), identification (i.e., through graphic presentations of recorded imagery) interpretation (e.g., age and traditional meaning), and presentation (e.g., signage and viewing platforms) are necessary to preserve the sites in place and retain their significance values. Pro-active consultations, surveys, mapping, recording, research, conservation, and management of the rock art sites on TVA land will serve as pioneering examples for other land management entities to emulate. In conclusion, it is highly recommended that the study, conservation, and management of rock art sites be a definite component in your Multiple Reservoirs Land Management Plan.

Duayne Carter  
Bell Buckle, TN  
March 9, 2016

We would like to see horseback riding allowed on TVA property around Normandy lake.

Karen Marcotte  
Petersburg, TN  
March 10, 2016

First of all thank you for allowing the public to voice their opinions on how the land might be used. I enjoy both horseback riding and boating. It seems as though there are a lot of areas for camping, hunting, fishing and boating but not a lot for horseback riding. I would like to see more trails available along the TVA route for horseback riding. I realize there is some argument that there is environmental impact involved in horse trails but I would argue that the impact is less on the environment with horseback riding as opposed to boats or ATV usage. These same trails could also be used for biking and hiking as well. The trails would require less maintenance, produce less pollution and have very little if any noise disturbance to any surrounding homes or parks. Thank you again for allowing us to have a voice in your project.

Jane Clemons  
Nolensville, TN  
March 25, 2016

I would like to see continued and possibly expanded trail use for horses in the TVA areas. Increasingly fewer trails are available for horse usage. Thank you.

Glenda Van Baale  
March 27, 2016

Yes I used the horse trails and would like to use them again. It is centrally located for many people and one of the few places open to the public. Since it was closed i am having a hard time finding a place to ride. I have seen railroad ties used in national parks to help with erosion in trails, maybe we could do the same here?

Sara McMahan  
March 26, 2016

I used to ride horses at Normandy, it was one of my favorite places to ride. We were responsible riders and carried out what we brought in. We even carried out more than what we brought in, taking out other trash we saw in order to keep the area clean and beautiful. The scenery and hills on the TVA land made it a great, fun ride. There isn't any other place that compares for me. I was disappointed when the area closed down to horse riders. It seems unfair that horse riders not get to enjoy this public land. It does not tear up the land like motor vehicles do, and we would leave the property in better shape, picking up trash as we went, enjoying the land and scenery. I would really like to see this decision reversed and horse riders able to ride at Normandy again. Please seriously consider this request. Even if there would be a way to pay a fee to get a pass to ride for a year, this ride is worth it to us. It is hard to find a place to ride that is comparable, and I would love to enjoy Normandy on horseback once again.

No Name Given (#1)  
March 26, 2016

[Email subject heading: "Normandy"] I have ridden the trails fgoodrses several times. Its one of the trails most talked about among my friends. Everyone was really disappointed when they were not allowed to ride. Horse people have traveled miles to ride there. It always brought up in conversation with someone somewhere. All horse people are not bad people. The horse people I ride with respect the trails we take in we haul it back out. I hope you will allow us to keep riding there. Normandy holds a lot of good memories gor a lot of people.

Ross and Leah Tierney  
March 26, 2016

Being a part of a large equine community here in Middle Tennessee, I would like to see horse trails on TVA Reservoirs, with parking to accommodate horse trailers. Equine activities are becoming one of the fastest growing recreational passtimes, and it seems that in my area (Shelbyville, TN ), there is a horse in every back yard. Tennessee with 148,653 equine, ranks 4th right behind Kentucky in horse population.

My 66 yr. old husband and I, 64 yrs. old, have rode the trails at the Normandy Lake TVA land for the past 24 years until it was closed, despite many meetings with TVA management to keep the area open to horse riders. Since its closure the economy of the area has suffered. We miss the companionship of our fellow horse riders and soaking in the great views that the area has to offer. We were hoping to bring our grandchildren there to experience nature, in the best possible way, from the back of a horse. Please consider establishing trails and camping areas for equine use in your future plans for these Reservoir lands. We would be willing to pay for the privilege to use these facilities. Thank you for taking the time to consider us.

William Perry  
Soddy Daisy, TN  
March 27, 2016

The Tennessee Valley Authority is in a period of pressure on electric rates, and this pressure can be expected to grow greatly. The economic health of the area furnished with TVA power depends to a large extent upon TVA keeping rates under control, particularly commercial rates. As TVA electric rate- payers now furnish substantially all funds to support TVA programs, funds for furnishing stewardship for the 293,000 acres held by TVA will be under increasing pressure (with 138,000 acres at the reservoirs covered by this CVLP).

Therefore TVA needs to add another Zone to this CLVP, "Zone 8, Designated for Disposal". Disposal of some of the land under their stewardship would reduce the pressure upon electric rates to support this large land holding, which is totally inappropriate to an organization funded by electric rates.

Disposal of land for which TVA has no specific and substantial need would result in a large increase in property taxes for counties in the Valley, much in excess of what TVA pays in lieu of taxes. Land behind TVA land in Zone 3, especially where this is a narrow strip, will increase largely. The increase in property taxes resulting from such disposal is badly needed, for example by counties, to fund schools. The value in TVA holding these narrow strips in front of private property has been much reduced by the rules presently in place for use of land adjacent to TVA reservoirs. The need for TVA to dispose of unneeded land around reservoirs is most clear around Chickamauga Lake (16061 acres held) and Kentucky Lake (74713 acres held) among those in this CVLP.

Reduction of federal debt resulting from land sales would help a bit too.

Evidence of lack of adequate stewardship of reservoir land holdings by TVA having continued for many years is the pine beetle infestation years ago. Mature pines on Parcel 43 on Chickamauga Lake, just as an example, were allowed to die, fall, and be converted largely to methane gas by termites. Proper stewardship would have resulted in these pines being harvested when it became obvious they were destined to be infected. This would have been possible at little or no cost using private contractors, and would have helped the environment. Instead, the area was a mess of dead and fallen trees for years. It was unsafe to go on this property due to the huge dead trees. This was repeated around most of the TVA property where pines were planted back when the reservoirs were created.

The shoreline where TVA holds full stewardship of the area is generally a neglected, muddy, eroding mess, with trees falling from the continually receding shoreline. When private property owners adjacent to the reservoir assume limited stewardship of the shoreline, it is almost without fail maintained, within TVA regulations, so that it does not recede. A terrible example of this neglect of stewardship is provided by the shore adjacent to Sequoyah Nuclear Plant on the main channel of Chickamauga Lake. It is a very high mud bank with mud and trees continually falling into the lake year after year.

The status of many properties as Zone 3, Sensitive Resource Management is questionable as some of these areas are those where the mature pines were allowed to make such a mess of the property. Examples are provided on Parcels 43 and 317 on Chickamauga Lake. Unless specific sensitive resources on these lands can be sited, with plans in place to provide proper

stewardship of those sensitive resources, these lands should be sold to those who will take proper care of them.

Some lands on Chickamauga Lake (and likely others) are improperly designated as Zone 6, Developed Recreation, when absolutely no development is in place. One of many examples is Parcel 64 on Chickamauga Lake.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the CVLP.

No Name Given (#2)  
March 29, 2016

Do not believe any land on the Elk River should be planned for industrial use. This is a high recreation area. Section 56 is too close to Lee High Bridge a major artery along Hwy 72 for North Alabama. Section 12 is surrounded by residential homes. Thanks for your consideration.

Ron Edwards  
Madison Materials, Inc.  
March 28, 2016

We are talking with Alpha Energy (previously TCC) about a barge loading terminal and acreage for a limestone quarry at Hale's Bar on the Tn River near Jasper/Chatt. I reviewed the TVA Land Use Plan for Nickajack Lake last week and find that all land around the terminal is either TVA Rec or TV Gorge dedicated. Understanding that TVA is asking for comments before a 2017 firm setaside date, at this time is there any land that we could approach your committee about that is adjacent to the old Tennessee Consolidated Coal barge loading facility which I understand still has 50 plus years on its lease with TVA? And, is there a preliminary plan for Gunter'sville Lake? Gunter'sville is our home base with three quarries nearby from which we plan to be shipping from a probable new loading facility which may be affected and we or some of our associates may have commercial property to be considered. Have a good day.

Marjorie S. Collier  
Friends of Short Springs  
Tullahoma, TN  
April 1, 2016

My special concern is Short Springs State Natural Area, part of which extends into the Normandy Reservoir shoreline.

When TVA purchased land for construction of the Normandy Dam and Reservoir in the late 1960's, it purchased 39 acres along Bobo and Machine Branch Creeks from the City of Tullahoma. When Short Springs State Natural Area was established in 1994, its 420 acres included a 60 acre Small Wild Area contributed by TVA. The 60 acres included the 39 acres which TVA had bought from Tullahoma along Machine Branch and 21 acres which TVA had purchased from other landowners which extended along the Bobo Creek shoreline and included Carroll Cave along Carroll Creek. This acreage and more is threatened by a group called Duck River Development Agency (DRDA) which would like to see Normandy dam raised five feet in order to keep the reservoir higher and provide more water for downstream communities in case

there is ever a future need. A higher water level would inundate the lower sections of the Natural Area and destroy a significant section of wildflowers. Raising the dam would be expensive (est. \$25M).

There are other less expensive and less environmentally damaging alternatives to raising Normandy Dam. For example, water could be pumped from nearby streams with greater flow such as Tims Ford Reservoir on the Elk River or from the lower Duck River at Kettle Mill back up to Columbia. Water conservation could be encouraged.

TVA's management of the Normandy shoreline has been commendable since there has been a minimum of development which could be detrimental to the scenic and physical environment. Several beach areas and boat access areas permit public enjoyment of the impoundment. Wildlife management areas contribute to preserving a variety of species on earth and can be a good thing.

Short Springs State Natural Area is a great asset for the people of Tennessee and nearby states and we need to protect and preserve it. Please do not permit Normandy dam to be raised since it would be destructive to the area, expensive and unnecessary since there are better techniques for water management. Thank you for your consideration off public comments.

Daniel  
April 1, 2016

In my opinion I believe what needs to be done is make the lakes more appealing to people for example, at Normandy lake on the dam have benches along the side of the dam for people to sit and relax. Another thing that would be nice is have a play area in the open area at the bottom of the dam for kids to play.

Rich Belz  
Knoxville, TN  
April 4, 2016

I am writing in response to a request for public input on whether the proposed RLMPs identify appropriate use of land parcels. I am a residential land owner, on Ft. Loudon Reservoir. My property is adjacent to parcel 111 on panel 2 of the Ft. Loudon RLMP. My specific parcel is lot 13, in Castaway Cove Subdivision. (Although some of the lines are disputed, the 2000 FEMA survey is attached for you're easy reference) Despite logic, a thin sliver (inches) of parcel 111 originally existed between my land and the reservoir, which has resulted in our inability to secure an environmentally beneficial permit for shoreline stabilization and a permanent dock. I have had a handful of thoughtful and welcomed discussions with the Little Tennessee Watershed team about this issue over the years. Prior to my purchase, in 2009, I talked to a very nice man, *[TVA staff]*, who said that it might be possible to secure the required permits, if and when the shoreline eroded away so that the reservoir was touching the property line. After receiving the possible good news from *[TVA staff]*, which he also supplied to another party we were negotiating against, we were successfully able to outbid the competition and purchase the property. After closing, we reached back out, only to learn that the information we had based our purchase decision on was incorrect. Here's a portion of *[TVA staff's]* response:

*"I'm glad to respond to you because we have some late developing information on this site*

*Regarding the potential for TVA to review a dock request if through shoreline erosion, the lake has now become established on Lot 13. As you and I discussed, there have been cases I'm aware of where the shoreline eroded onto private land and TVA accepted applications for docks, and after a successful environmental review, issued permits to those landowners. In those cases, the TVA land had not been through an official Tract Allocation process where public input, programmatic input, along with Board approval, officially designates certain tracts of TVA property to be used only for specific uses. I had the chance to discuss the potential for private wateruse facilities fronting lot 13, with some of our policy staff in the last few days. The tract of TVA land fronting Lot 13 has been allocated for Commercial Recreation, and it would be very unlikely that TVA would accept a request for private water use facilities fronting lot 13 in the event that the shoreline had moved back on to lot 13. I hope this provides you some valuable information on your decision process. If you have any questions, please give me a call."*

Since the original Tract Allocation process resulted in the denial of dock rights, it is our hope that the current RLMP review and update will provide an opportunity to rectify the situation. While we understand the technical reasons for non-dockable status on lot 13, in the real world it defies any reasonable logic:

In person, the lot is, by all intents and appearances, a waterfront lot, and is classified as such by Blount County.

On maps, the difference between our lot and the dockable lot next door appears arbitrary. Relative to the subdivision plat, our Western lot line should actually have originally extended to the water, and by now, after roughly 6" of shoreline erosion each year, it certainly does.

The development was platted prior to November 1999, and may be subject to waiver. Permitting a dock for lot 13 would not block access or decrease the usability of Parcel 111. Permitting a dock for lot 13 would not set any precedent for additional requests. Ours is the only waterfront lot in the subdivision that is not dockable.

With respect to environmental concerns, it only took one summer of kids climbing in and out of the lake to see that a permitted dock and stabilized shoreline would promote safety, while minimizing shoreline erosion and disturbance of the shallow lake bed.

On a personal side note, one reason we continue to revisit this topic is that of personal and property security living adjacent to Parcel 111. There are constantly people camping on Parcel 111 in the summertime. Some folks appear to actually live out there, and alcohol and drug use is common. The neighbors say there's meth, and many are afraid to walk on the trails. Because of this, and a recently stolen pedal boat, we'd like to be able to secure our property with a permanent dock.

For our part, we are more than happy to oblige in any way that may influence thoughtful consideration and a beneficial outcome. I have lived on and enjoyed Ft. Loudon Reservoir for 30 years now, and our intent is not to decrease that enjoyment for anyone else. We would be thrilled to make proper lot drainage, an appropriate buffer zone, and seawall/shoreline protection an integral part of the dock project. If the "maintain and gain" policy was still active, we would be pleased to offset any perceived personal residential benefit through shoreline substitution. If any other creative options exist, you will find us as willing participants who are thankful for your time and attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out, and best of luck with this huge undertaking! We look forward to your response.

Dennis D. Horn

Friends of Short Springs  
Tullahoma, TN  
April 4, 2016

My comments concern the TVA land management plan for Normandy Dam and Reservoir. The Normandy reservoir is only 3200 acres and was originally intended to complement a much larger reservoir near Columbia. The Columbia Dam was never completed. The Duck River Development Agency has recently proposed raising the Normandy Dam 5 feet to provide additional water for the Upper Duck region. This proposal, if implemented, would be devastating to the Short Springs State Natural Area and other sensitive areas around the perimeter of the Normandy Reservoir. Likely Old Stone Fort State Park would encounter a negative impact as well.

The TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation considers the Short Springs SNA to be one of their premiere natural areas statewide and its 420 acres represent one of the best examples of a high quality habitat in the Eastern Highland Rim / Central Basin transition zone. The SNA contains at least 4 plants on the TN State rare plant list. Members of the Friends of Short Springs have observed the level of high water reached at Short Springs during past floods with the present dam structure. Adding 5 feet to already observed lake levels would allow the water to completely inundate the best wildflower area in the Short Springs SNA. Floods most commonly occur in the spring during the peak wildflower season. If water stands on any spring ephemerals for more than two days they will be destroyed forever. The premiere wildflower flat at Short Springs would become a mud flat! Come see for yourself how high the water would reach! It will come up to the middle hand rail on the foot bridge near Machine Falls.

The city of Columbia is the only city in the Upper Duck region with a possible future need for more water within the next 50 years. The Normandy Dam is 115 miles upstream from Columbia. The Normandy Reservoir is too small and too far away from Columbia to provide any significant improvement for Columbia's water needs.

Recent TVA management policies have been friendly toward the environment in our region. I hope this policy will continue and that TVA will not allow the Normandy Dam to be raised. The cost of raising the dam would be prohibitive. The arguments offered by the Upper Duck Development Agency for the need to raise the dam are not sound. They are based on unrealistic growth projections. The proposed project should not be implemented. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Ralph D. Golden  
Memphis, TN  
April 4, 2016

(Re: Kentucky Reservoir) Pursuant to TVA's request for public comment relating to its development of a new RLMP, I wish to submit the following for consideration by the Board. My comments apply specifically to Tract 112 and generally to shoreline in Henry County, Tennessee.

First, I represent seven (7) clients who own property adjoining TVA's Tract 112. For reasons stated in their 26a applications for dock permits and shoreline stabilization, my clients believe their application denials were not well-founded and not in the best interest of TVA and the public. On behalf of my clients and at their request, I have appended the denials to Ms.



Rebecca Tolene, Vice-President of Natural Resources, who must be located on the same premises as your office. I am attaching a copy of my appeal letter to Ms. Tolene as part of my clients' public comment and requested Tract 112 be rezoned from Zone 4 to Zone 7. We have researched whether or not the rezoning would adversely impact the overall mission of TVA in the resource management of the Tract. We could not find any adverse impact. The proceeding involving the Perry Permit (a neighbor to the applicants) indicated a serious and significant investigation by TVA and its findings and conclusions indicated there would not be any adverse impact by granting Perry his permit.

Additionally, Section 26a permit approvals are based on TVA's statutory obligations, environmental quality requirements, and other TVA resource management interests. Obviously, TVA believe part of Tract 112 was suitable for lake access (Perry permit) and applicants can not find a compelling reason for TVA's denial of their 26a applications. Since search was previously considered and granted by TVA, TVA should grant said use to applicants since the proposed use would not conflict with the interest of the general public or TVA's resource management. TVA was well aware that neighbor's of Perry would be requesting similar treatment when it granted Perry's permit.

TVA's public notice indicated a desire to allocate fewer lands as Zone 4 (a decrease of almost 10%) and minor increases to Zones 2, 5, 6, and 7. As stated in my appeal letter, rezoning Tract 112 to Zone 7 would represent a 0.018% increase in Zone 7 allocations with a corresponding decrease in Zone 4 allocation assisting TVA in meeting the goals set forth in TVA public notice. In the event TVA refuses to rezone Tract 112, my clients and I would like to see a specific plan of erosion control of public land along the shoreline of Tract 112. The pictures attached to the appeal letter show the significant erosion along parts of Tract 112. In a few years without bank stabilization TVA will own a vertical bank. My clients and I would like to be involved and aware of the planning process and if we could be on a list of interested owners, please use my email address and I can forward any information to my clients.

Doug Murphy  
Tennessee Duck River Development Agency  
April 4, 2016

(Re: Comments on the Normandy Reservoir Land Plan) TVA built Normandy Reservoir for flood protection, water supply, recreation and water quality benefits. As TVA address land use around Normandy Reservoir it should be TVA's primary interest to protect and improve water supply along with addressing the other uses Normandy Reservoir was built for. Normandy Reservoir serves as the only source of water for a four county region in the upper Duck River watershed during an extended drought period.

The TN Duck River Development Agency (DRA) has developed comprehensive plans for long term needs for water supply in the Duck River Region and TVA was only one of the many stakeholders involved with the development of the regional plans. One of the five components of the regional plan is to make changes to the operating curve currently being used for Normandy Reservoir which could have impacts to current land practices if the flood plain is changed. Without going into detail description at this time of the changes to the operating curve the DRA would like to make the Land Use Planning team aware of this possible change and the DRA would like to be considered as a primary stakeholder during the planning process for comments.

Thank you for considering our comments and we look forward to working with TVA to protecting

and improving the water supply for the Upper Duck River Region. For any questions please contact Doug Murphy, DRA Executive Director....

## Appendix C: TVA Press Release

Public Comment Sought on TVA Reservoir Land Management Plans  
March 04, 2016

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Valley Authority is seeking public comment as it reviews and updates the way it manages thousands of acres of land to best serve the people of the Valley.

Reservoir Land Management Plans for eight TVA reservoirs – Chickamauga, Fort Loudoun, Great Falls, Kentucky, Nickajack, Normandy, Wheeler and Wilson – will be updated through the development of an Environmental Impact Statement. Public input during the EIS scoping period helps ensure that issues and opportunities are identified so they can be appropriately addressed.

“As part of TVA’s mission of service, we must properly manage the biological, cultural, recreational and water resources entrusted to us throughout the Valley,” said Heather Montgomery, program manager for TVA’s land use. “Land use needs and requirements have changed over time, so we want to make sure we have the best possible plan for allocating these valuable public resources for the future.”

Public lands around each reservoir are zoned for various uses designed to optimize benefits and minimize conflicts for all stakeholders. Updates made to individual Reservoir Land Management Plans will also be used to revise the Comprehensive Valley-Wide Land Plan.

Maps and additional information about the plans can be found at [www.tva.gov/landplanreview](http://www.tva.gov/landplanreview).

Public comments on the EIS scoping period will be accepted through Monday, April 4, and all input will be considered during the creation of the plans. Comments can be submitted online, via email to [mshigdon@tva.gov](mailto:mshigdon@tva.gov), or in writing to Matthew Higdon, TVA, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tenn., 37902.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power distributors serving more than 9 million people in parts of seven southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity. In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation.

Contact Jim Hopson  
TVA Public Relations, Knoxville, (865) 632-6000

[tvainfo@tva.gov](mailto:tvainfo@tva.gov)  
(865) 632-8860

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## **Appendix D: Public Scoping Period Newspaper Advertisement**

### **TVA Seeks Input on Alternative Land Plans at Eight TVA Reservoirs**

TVA has initiated an environmental review to consider alternative land plans for managing project public lands on eight TVA reservoirs – Chickamauga, Fort Loudoun, Great Falls, Kentucky, Nickajack, Normandy, Wheeler and Wilson – in Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee. TVA is also considering revising its Comprehensive Valleywide Land Plan based on new information included in the eight reservoir land plans.

TVA is currently soliciting input from the public on the issues and potential environmental impacts that will be addressed in an environmental impact statement. TVA also invites the public to review how TVA proposes to manage its parcels on each reservoir and to submit comments on its proposal. Additional plan alternatives may be developed based on the public's input. Please submit your comments by April 4, 2016. Written comments should be sent to Heather Montgomery at the email or mailing address provided below. Comments may also be submitted online at [www.tva.com/landplanreview](http://www.tva.com/landplanreview).

For more information about the project, contact:

Heather Montgomery  
Senior Program Manager, Reservoir Land Planning  
Post Office Box 1010  
Muscle Shoals, AL 35662-1010  
[hlmcgee@tva.gov](mailto:hlmcgee@tva.gov)

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## Appendix E: TVA Notification Letter to State and Federal Agencies



Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 1010, Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662-1010

February 29, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

TVA is initiating an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act to consider alternative plans for managing approximately 138,000 acres of public lands on eight TVA reservoirs in Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee: Chickamauga, Fort Loudoun, Great Falls, Kentucky, Nickajack, Normandy, Wheeler and Wilson. TVA also proposes to use the information included in these eight reservoir land management plans (RLMP) to make minor revisions to its Comprehensive Valleywide Land Plan.

TVA RLMPs guide land use approvals, private water use facility permitting, and resource management decisions on TVA-managed public lands around reservoirs. Consistent with TVA's Land Policy and Natural Resource Plan, the RLMP planning process supports compliance with applicable federal regulations and executive orders and helps ensure the protection of significant resources, including threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, wetlands, unique habitats, natural areas, water quality, and the visual character of the reservoirs.

TVA is seeking public and stakeholder input to identify issues and concerns that should be analyzed during the environmental review. We also invite the public and stakeholders to visit the Website listed below to review and comment on the proposed RLMP that TVA has prepared for each reservoir. Based on feedback received during this scoping period, additional RLMP(s) may be developed and considered during the review process. For more information and to submit input, please visit:

<https://www.tva.com/Environment/landplanreview>

We welcome your participation in this effort. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Montgomery (256-386-3803; [hlmcgee@tva.gov](mailto:hlmcgee@tva.gov)). If your agency would like to assist TVA or serve as a cooperating agency during the review, please contact Matthew Higdon (865-632-8051; [mshigdon@tva.gov](mailto:mshigdon@tva.gov)).

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hayden-Morgan  
Manager, Policy and Project Management

Enclosure (Notice of Intent)

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## Appendix F: Comments from State and Federal Entities

State Agencies
<p>Lee Anne Wofford Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Alabama Historical Commission State of Alabama April 7, 2016</p> <p>Thank you for the above-referenced document. We request consultation on any actions that may impact cultural resources. We appreciate your commitment to helping us preserve Alabama's historic archaeological and architectural resources. Should you have any questions, please contact Amanda McBride.... Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.</p>
<p>Jennifer Dixon Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources State of Georgia April 5, 2016</p> <p>The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has received initial information concerning the above referenced project requesting comments pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Our comments are offered to assist the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).</p> <p>Thank you for notifying us of this federal undertaking. We look forward to receiving Section 106 compliance documentation, as appropriate. If the federal agency intends to utilize NEPA to comply with Section 106, in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR Part 800, TVA should notify HPD and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation of its intent.</p> <p>Please refer to project number HP 160310-008 in future correspondence regarding this project.</p>
<p>Lee Nalley Department of Local Governments State of Kentucky March 7, 2016</p> <p>Hello, we received a letter here at DLG from [TVA] about the EIS, Multiple Reservoirs Land Management Plans. If you need this project to be reviewed by the state agencies in KY you need to scoping letters to each individual agency, or if there is federal money in this project you can follow the directions attached and put this project in the eclearinghouse.</p>
<p>Craig A. Potts State Historic Preservation Officer</p>

Kentucky Heritage Council  
April 4, 2016

Thank you for the information concerning the above referenced project. We look forward to further consultation regarding impacts within Kentucky as the draft EIS is developed.

Mark Gudlin  
Chief, Wildlife and Forestry Division  
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
May 17, 2016

Our regions reviewed the RLMPs for the 4 reservoirs requested (Chickamauga, Fort Loudoun, Kentucky, and Normandy) and had no comment to provide.

Ethel Eaton  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Department of Historic Resources  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
March 9, 2016

Thank you for your letter of February 29, 2016 notifying the Virginia Department of Historic Resources that the Tennessee Valley Authority is initiating an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act to consider alternative plans for managing public lands on eight TVA reservoirs. While none of these reservoirs is located within the Commonwealth of Virginia, it is our understanding TVA also proposes to use the information included in these eight land management plans to make minor revisions to its Comprehensive Valleywide Land Plan, which includes lands in our state.

The principal concern of our agency as Virginia's State Historic Preservation Office is that any potential effects on archaeological sites and historic structures be minimized to the greatest extent possible. We encourage careful consideration of archaeological site monitoring and protection. As TVA moves forward in development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), please provide us with a copy of the draft EIS for our review and comment.

**Federal Agencies**

David Brown  
Regulatory Specialist  
U.S. Department of the Army, Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers  
April 7, 2016

Reference is made to your letter of February 29, 2016, requesting input for the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act for revisions to multiple reservoir land management plans. The Wilmington District Corps of Engineers administers Department of Army (DA) regulatory authority and permitting programs with in waters of the United States (WoUS) in North Carolina. Therefore, our comments will pertain to our regulatory jurisdiction at TVA reservoirs in North Carolina.

The Corps' regulatory authority for WoUS is under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA). DA authority under Section 10 of the RHA encompasses activities in, over, or under a navigable waterway that affect or has the potential to affect course, condition or capacity of navigation. Under Section 404 of the CWA, DA authority regulates discharge of dredge or fills material into WoUS.

TVA reservoirs in North Carolina are Chatuge, Hiwassee, Apalachia, and Fontana. Fontana is in an impoundment of the Little Tennessee River, which is WoUS and navigable under Section 10 of the RHA. Chatuge, Hiwassee, and Apalachia are impoundments of the Hiwassee River, which is WoUS. If activities on/in these reservoirs are to be conducted within the Corps regulatory authority, then those activities may need to be coordinated with this office to determine if a DA permit will be required prior to undertaking the activities. A determination can be made based upon the location, type, and extent of DA jurisdictional area impacted by the activities, by the project design, and construction limits. Additional information about the Wilmington District's regulatory permit program can be found at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryPermitProgram.aspx>.

Bryan Watkins

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama Field Offices

March 28, 2016

Thank you for your memo received March 3, 2016, regarding comments on the published Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for eight Reservoir Land Management Plans for the Chickamauga, Fort Loudon, Great Falls, Kentucky, Nickajack, Wheeler and Wilson Reservoirs – Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) personnel have reviewed the NOI and offer the following comments.

Tennessee:

- Continue to manage lands around Chickamauga Lake where largeflower skullcap *Scutellaria montana* occurs in a manner that promotes conservation of the species. While management for this species has not typically involved use of prescribed fire, we could request that TVA consider using prescribed fire to promote more open woodland conditions for this species. We should also encourage TVA to control populations of invasive plants on lands where the species is present.
- Continue to manage lands to benefit forest dwelling bats such as the federally listed Indiana bat *Myotis sodalis* and northern long-eared bat *Myotis septentrionalis*. This management could be conducted in conjunction with the previously mentioned plant species.
- Consider potential for effects to Price's potato-bean *Apios priceana* and its habitat with any changes in zoning or planned management of lands around Kentucky Lake.

Kentucky:

- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) - The federally-endangered Indiana bat potentially occurs around Kentucky Lake. Indiana bats winter in caves, rockshelters, abandoned underground mines, and other similar structures. Based on the abundance of these structures in Kentucky, we believe that it is reasonable to assume that suitable winter habitat may occur within the project area, and, if they do occur, they could provide winter habitat for the species. The rest of the year, Indiana bats utilize a wide array of forested

habitats, including riparian forests, bottomlands , and uplands for both summer foraging and roosting habitat. During the summer they roost in trees, and the females form maternity colonies in which they give birth and raise their young. During the "fall swarming" period, they occupy the forested habitat around the hibernacula as they are mating and acquiring additional fat reserves prior to hibernation. They also utilize this habitat during spring emergence before migrating to their respective summering areas. Suitable roost trees for Indiana bats are greater than 5 inches diameter at breast height (DBH), can be living or dead, and exhibit any of the following characteristics: exfoliating bark, broken limbs, broken tops, cracks, and crevices.

- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) - There are records of the federally-threatened northern long-eared bat around Kentucky Lake. Impacts to the northern long-eared bat can be addressed under Final 4(d) Rule for the species that was published on January 14, 2016. This 4(d) Rule identifies certain types of take that is prohibited and establishes specific conservation measures for tree removal activities that, if adhered to, would not result in prohibited incidental take. Information to assist in identifying if projects are in compliance with these conservation measures, including a list of topographical quadrangles in Kentucky that contain known roost trees and hibernacula, can be found at the bottom of the following webpage: [http://www.fws.gov/frankfort/indiana\\_bat\\_procedures.html](http://www.fws.gov/frankfort/indiana_bat_procedures.html). Based on the information provided in your correspondence, our species occurrence records support that activities in the proposed project area would be in compliance with these conservation measures. Per the Biological Opinion that supports the 4(d) Rule, the action agency of federal projects, in coordination with the Service, must make a determination as to whether their activity is excepted from the incidental take prohibitions in the final 4(d) Rule. This determination can be made using the streamlined 4(d) consultation form found on the right side of the following webpage: <http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/s7.html>. This determination should be provided to our office at least 30 days in advance of the action agency's funding, authorization, or carrying out of an action. Contact our office for further assistance with the conservation measures or options available if the project design cannot incorporate these measures.

Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) - Gray bats use caves or other structures year round to roost, breed, rear young, and hibernate. They migrate between winter caves and summer caves or other similar structures and will use transient or stopover caves along the way. Summer roosting sites are normally located close to rivers or lakes where the bats feed. Gray bats eat a variety of flying aquatic and terrestrial insects present along streams, rivers, and lakes. Low-flow streams produce an abundance of insects and are especially valuable to the gray bat as foraging habitat. Gray bats have been known to fly as far as 12 miles from their colony to feed and use forested corridors to travel across the landscape.

Price's potato-bean (*Apiospriceana*) - There are several records of the federally-threatened Price's potato-bean around Kentucky Lake. Price's potato-bean is a twining perennial vine in the legume family. It requires mesic (moderately moist) forests, and is often found in areas next to streams, usually associated with openings in the forest canopy. Small remnant populations persist on roadsides and power lines where light levels are high.

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) - The bald eagle was officially removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species on August 8, 2007, but it continues to be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and the Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). There are numerous records of bald eagle nests around Kentucky Lake. Breeding bald eagles occupy "territories" that they are

likely to return to each year. A territory may include one or more nests that are built and maintained by the eagles, but which may not be used for nesting in a given year. Potential nest trees within a nesting territory may, therefore, provide important alternative bald eagle nest sites. Eagles in Kentucky typically nest in large mature trees (e.g., bald cypress, sycamore, willow, etc.) near major rivers and large, open bodies of water where fish, waterfowl, and other prey are abundant. Eggs are laid in late February or early March and hatch after 35 days. Bald eagles are vulnerable to disturbance during courtship, nest building, egg laying, incubation, and brooding. Disturbance during these critical periods may lead to nest abandonment, cracked and chilled eggs, exposure of small young to the elements, and may also cause young, flightless birds to jump from the nest tree. Prohibited acts under BGEPA include disturbing nesting eagles and destroying active and inactive nests. The Service developed the National Bald Eagle Management (NBEM) Guidelines to provide landowners, land managers, and others with information and recommendations to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles, particularly where such impacts may constitute "disturbance," which is prohibited by the BGEPA. The NBEM Guidelines are available at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/BaldEagle.htm>. Those guidelines recommend: (1) maintaining a specified distance between the activity and the nest (buffer area); (2) maintaining natural areas (preferably forested) between the activity and nest trees (landscape buffers); and (3) avoiding certain activities during the breeding season. On-site personnel should be informed of the possible presence of bald eagle nests within the vicinity of the project area and should identify, avoid, and immediately report any such nests to this office. If a bald eagle nest is discovered, an evaluation should be performed to determine if the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle/>. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary. Should you need further assistance interpreting the guidelines or performing an on-line project evaluation, please contact this office.

**Federally-protected bird species -** The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (40 Stat. 775, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*) prohibits the take of over 1,000 species of birds listed under the four international migratory bird treaties signed by the U.S. (50 CFR 10.13). There is currently no provision under the MBTA to allow for incidental take of protected bird species. The Service uses prosecutorial discretion to address incidents that resulted in incidental take of protected birds. The Service asks project proponents to take reasonable measures to minimize take associated with projects. Of these birds, the Service is particularly interested in reducing impacts to species that are included on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BBC) lists (<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Management/BCC.html>). The species identified on these lists are considered vulnerable and are among the highest bird conservation priorities for the Service and our partners. Many of these species are experiencing widespread declines and could potentially become candidates for federal listing under the ESA in the future.

In addition to avoiding the direct take of protected bird species as prohibited under the MBTA, the Service also encourages agencies to implement measures to support the conservation of protected bird species and their habitat as described in Executive Order 13186 of January 10, 2001. In addition to bird species that occur in forest and grassland habitats, Kentucky Lake provides habitat for shorebirds when water levels are favorable for them.

Troy Anderson  
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Virginia Field Office  
March 9, 2016

We recently received a letter regarding the subject initiative. I wanted to take a quick minute to let you know that we use an online project review process for most review in Virginia. The attached letter provides a good overview as well as a link to our online review process.

