



Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan



General Information

TVA develops land plans to facilitate management of 293,000 acres of public land around its reservoirs. Plans are developed with participation by public agencies and officials, private organizations, and individuals. By providing a clear vision of how TVA will manage public land and by identifying land for specific uses, a reservoir land plan minimizes conflicting land uses and guides decisions on requests for use of public land. Land plans include an environmental review conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The level of environmental review of the Watts Bar Land Plan will be an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). TVA is updating the existing Watts Bar Land Management Plan that was completed in 1988 to reflect new suggested recommendations for managing the property for optimum public benefit. TVA issued a draft EIS under NEPA for the Watts Bar Land Management Plan in 2005. Due to the expansion of the TVA Board of directors and their subsequent moratorium on land actions, TVA suspended further NEPA review on the original Watts Bar Plan. The new land policy was approved and the moratorium was lifted by the TVA Board in November 2006. TVA has now revised the draft Watts Bar Land Management Plan to take into account the affected changes due to the new TVA Land Policy. The scope of the Watts Bar Land Plan will include all of the TVA-managed land, (approximately 16,200 acres) on Watts Bar Reservoir.

What is the Land Planning Process?

The reservoir land planning process is a systematic method of identifying and evaluating the most suitable use of public lands under TVA stewardship. It uses resource data, computer analysis, and public input to allocate land uses to the following land management zones:

- Project Operations
- Sensitive Resource Management
- Natural Resource Conservation
- Industrial
- Developed Recreation
- Shoreline Access

How Does Reservoir Land Planning Relate to Access Rights for Private Water Use Facilities?

TVA defines access rights as property rights across TVA-owned shoreland held by some adjacent landowners. These rights provide ingress to and egress from the water and allow the landowner to request TVA permits for proposed docks and other water-use facilities. The Reservoir Land Planning Process will not change the existing access rights of adjacent property owners for the use of TVA Land.

How is the Public Involved in the Planning Process?

Agencies, organizations, and citizens are asked to provide input by attending a public meeting or by sending their comments to TVA. For questions regarding the environmental review, Richard L. Toennisson can be reached by calling (865) 632-8517 or by e-mail at watts_bar_reservoir@tva.com. You may also mail your written comments to TVA, NEPA Administration, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville TN 37902. A summary and a complete draft plan are available at www.tva.com and at local libraries.

How Does TVA Use Public Input?

After public review of the draft plan and addressing public comments, a final plan will be submitted to the TVA Board for approval.

Land Use Zone Definitions

During the planning process each parcel of TVA-managed public land is proposed to be classified into one of the following seven land zones.

Zone 1 Non-TVA Shoreland/Flowage Easement

- Flowage easement
- Privately owned reservoir land

Zone 2 TVA Project Operations

- Land adjacent to established navigation operations
- Land used for TVA power projects operations
- Dam reservation land
- Navigation safety harbors/landings
- Navigation dayboards and beacons
- Public works projects

Zone 3 Sensitive Resource Management

- Archaeological and historical resources
- Wetlands
- Habitat Protection Areas
- Ecological Study Areas
- Small Wild Areas
- River corridor with sensitive resources
- Significant scenic areas

Zone 4 Natural Resource Conservation

- Land managed for wildlife or forest management projects
- Informal Recreation Areas
- Shoreline Conservation Areas
- Wildlife Observation Areas
- River corridor without sensitive resources present
- Islands of 10 acres or less

Zone 5 Industrial

- Light Industrial
- Industrial Access
- Barge Terminal Sites
- Fleeting Areas
- Minor Commercial Landing

Zone 6 Developed Recreation

- TVA land under easement, lease, etc., for recreational purposes
- TVA land developed for recreational purposes
- Commercial recreation
- Public recreation
- Greenways
- Water access sites

Zone 7 Shoreline Access

- TVA lands where Section 26a applications for private water-use facilities would be considered