

## CHAPTER 5

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Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan

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## CHAPTER 7

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## 7.2. Glossary of Terms

**100-year floodplain** - The area inundated by the 1 percent annual chance (or 100-year) flood.

**agricultural licensing** - Some parcels or portions of parcels designated for other purposes or uses may also be suitable for interim agricultural licensing. These parcels have been identified using the criteria contained in TVA's agriculture instruction. Normal tenure for a TVA agricultural license is five years. Land with extreme erosion potential may not be licensed for agricultural use unless erosion and sediment controls, including the use of BMPs, can be successfully implemented. Further investigation and/or mitigation of adverse impacts to natural or cultural resources may be required prior to approval of license agreements.

**benthic** - Refers to the bottom of a stream, river, or reservoir.

**controlled burn** - A managed fire to remove vegetation for the benefit of silviculture or wildlife management.

**cumulative impacts** - Impacts which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such actions (40 CFR 1508.7).

**dam reservation** - Lands generally maintained in a park-like setting by TVA to protect the integrity of the dam structure, hydroelectric facilities, and navigation lock. The reservation also provides for public visitor access to the TVA dam facilities and recreation opportunities, such as public boat access, bank fishing, camping, picnicking, etc.

**direct impacts** - Effects which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place (40CFR 1508.4).

**dissolved oxygen** - The oxygen dissolved in water, necessary to sustain aquatic life. It is usually measured in milligrams per liter or parts per million.

**drawdown** - Area of reservoirs exposed between full summer pool and minimum winter pool levels during annual drawdown of the water level for flood control.

**dredging** - The removal of material from an underwater location, primarily for deepening harbors and waterways.

**embayment** - A bay or arm of the reservoir.

**emergent wetland** - Wetlands dominated by erect, rooted herbaceous plants, such as cattails and bulrushes.

**endangered species** - A species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range or territory. Endangered species recognized by the ESA or similar state legislation have special legal status for their protection and recovery.

**floodplains** - Any land area susceptible to inundation by water from any source by a flood of selected frequency. For purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the floodplain, as a minimum, is that area subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding (100-year flood) in any given year.

**flowage easement tracts** - Privately owned lakeshore properties where TVA has (1) the right to flood the land as part of its reservoir operations, (2) no rights for vegetation

management, and (3) the authority to control structures, under Section 26a of the TVA Act.

**fragmentation** - The process of breaking up a large area of relatively uniform habitat into one or more smaller, disconnected areas.

**hydrologic unit codes** - Hydrologic unit codes (HUCs) are cataloging units assigned to each watershed by the U.S. Geological Survey for the purpose of assessment and management activities.

**indirect impacts** - Effects which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable (40 CFR 1508.4).

**Important Bird Areas** - The Important Bird Area Program is part of an international effort to identify the most critical bird habitat. TWRA has partnered with the National Audubon Society to compile a list of sites in Tennessee.

**macroinvertebrates** - Bottom-dwelling aquatic animals without vertebrates, such as mollusks and arthropods.

**mainstream reservoirs** - Impoundments created by dams constructed across the Tennessee River.

**marginal strip** - The narrow strip of land owned by TVA between the water's edge and the adjoining private property, on which the property owner may construct private water use facilities upon approval of plans by TVA.

**maximum shoreline contour** - An elevation typically 5 feet above the top of the gates of a TVA Dam. It is often the property boundary between TVA marginal strip property and adjoining private property.

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards** - Uniform, national air quality standards established by the USEPA that restrict ambient levels of certain pollutants to protect public health (primary standards) or public welfare (secondary standards). Standards have been set for ozone, carbon monoxide, particulates, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen, nitrogen dioxide, and lead.

**nonattainment areas** - Those areas of the U.S. that do not meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards as determined by measurements of air pollutant levels.

**overbank** - Refers to the reservoir water area outside the original river and stream channels; typically more shallow and preferred foraging areas for fishing birds and mammal species.

**overstory** - The tallest and dominant community of trees of a forest.

**physiographic provinces** - General divisions of land with each area having characteristic combinations of soil materials and topography.

**plan tract** - A numbered parcel of TVA fee-owned land that, prior to the plan, has had no long-term commitments affecting future land uses as assigned through the reservoir land planning process.

**prime farmland** - Generally regarded as the best land for farming, these areas are flat or gently rolling and are usually susceptible to little or no soil erosion. Prime farmland produces the most food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops with the least amount of fuel, fertilizer, and labor. It combines favorable soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply and, under careful management, can be farmed continuously and at a high level of productivity without degrading either the environment or the resource

base. Prime farmland does not include land already in or committed to urban development, roads, or water storage.

**riparian zone** - An area of land that has vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence. Typically a streamside zone or shoreline edge.

**riprap** - Stones placed along the shoreline for bank stabilization and other purposes.

**riparian** - The communities of plants and animals that occur within the influence of a stream, river, or body of water.

**riverine** - Having characteristics similar to a river.

**row crops** - Agricultural crops, such as corn, wheat, beans, cotton, etc., which are most efficiently grown in large quantities by planting and cultivating in lines or rows.

**Section 26a review process** - Section 26a of the TVA Act requires TVA review and approval of plans for obstructions, such as docks, fills, bridges, outfalls, water intakes, and riprap before they are constructed across, in or along the Tennessee River and its tributaries. Applications for this approval are coordinated appropriately with TVA programs and USACE. USACE issues a joint public notice for those applications that are not covered by a USACE nationwide, general, or regional permit. The appropriate state water pollution control agency must also certify that the effluent from outfalls meets the applicable water quality standards.

**scrub-shrub** - Woody vegetation less than about 20 feet tall. Species include true shrubs, young trees, and trees or shrubs that are small or stunted because of environmental conditions.

**Shipper savings** - A standard metric for assessing the economic impact of inland navigation as mandated by the Office of Management and Budget. The dollar amount is equal to the cost of barge transportation subtracted from the next least costly mode of transportation, typically truck or rail.

**shoreline** - The line where the water of a TVA reservoir meets the shore when the water level is at the normal summer pool elevation.

**Shoreline Management Zone** - A barrier of permanent vegetation established or left undisturbed around a reservoir in order to buffer the adverse impacts resulting from development and increased human activity.

**significant cultural resources** - Some of the parcel descriptions state that “the parcel contains significant cultural resources” or that “cultural resource considerations may affect development of the parcel.” However, many of the parcel descriptions contain no reference to archaeological or other cultural resources. The lack of such references within a parcel description does not necessarily indicate that significant cultural resources do not exist. The use of any parcel for developmental purposes may require additional archaeological testing or mitigation of adverse impact to archaeological sites. The costs of required testing or mitigation would be the responsibility of the developer.

**stratification** - The seasonal layering of water within a reservoir due to differences in temperature or chemical characteristics of the layers.

**substrates** - The base or material to which a plant is attached and from which it receives nutrients.

**sufferance agreement** - The recordable documents used to allow unauthorized and impermissible structures encroaching on TVA land to remain at their present location, subject to specific terms and conditions, or until such time they are removed or destroyed.

**summer pool elevation** - The normal upper level to which the reservoirs may be filled. Where storage space is available above this level, additional filling may be made as needed for flood control.

**threatened species** - A species threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range or territory. Threatened species recognized by the ESA or similar state legislation have special legal status for their protection and recovery.

**tributary reservoirs** - Impoundments created by dams constructed across streams and rivers that eventually flow into the Tennessee River.

**turbidity** - All the organic and inorganic living and nonliving materials suspended in a water column. Higher levels of turbidity affect light penetration and typically decrease productivity of water bodies.

**TVARAM** - TVA Rapid Assessment Method, a version of the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method designed specifically for the TVA region.

**understory** - The least dominant community of trees of a forest, consisting of shade tolerant species.

**upland** - The higher parts of a region, not closely associated with streams or lakes.

**wetlands** - As defined in *TVA Environmental Review Procedures*, "Wetlands are those areas inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support and under normal circumstances do or would support a prevalence of vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonably saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas, such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, mud flats, and natural ponds.

**Wildlife Management Area (WMA)** - Land and/or water areas designated by state wildlife agencies, such as the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency,, for the protection and management of wildlife. These areas typically have specific hunting and trapping regulations as well as rules regarding appropriate uses of these areas by the public.