

# Environment

TVA is the nation's largest public power provider and a partner to the Tennessee Valley for progress and change. TVA helps our region thrive and enables residents to enjoy a better quality of life by:

- Managing TVA's 650,000 acres of surface water, 293,000 acres of reservoir land, and more than 100 public recreation areas in ways that help make the Valley a better place to live, work, and raise a family.
- Working aggressively to reduce our emissions so that air quality in the Valley continues to improve.
- Exploring renewable energy sources so our children and grandchildren can enjoy the benefits of clean and reliable power.

## **In 2007, TVA:**

- Managed the nation's fifth-largest river system and adjoining land to provide multiple stewardship benefits that enhance the environmental assets of our region.
- Invested \$239 million as part of an ongoing \$5.8-billion program to reduce fossil-plant emissions to their lowest levels in decades. TVA has reduced sulfur-dioxide emissions by 82 percent since 1977 and has reduced nitrogen-oxide emissions during the summer ozone season by 81 percent since 1995.
- During the driest year on record in the Tennessee Valley, operated the reservoir system to maintain adequate channel depths for commercial navigation, kept reservoir levels above municipal and industrial water intake structures, and helped protect aquatic life.
- Certified the 76th Clean Marina where marina operators have pledged their support of TVA water quality and waste management standards.

## **Also in 2007:**

- The TVA Board adopted a new Land Management Policy that balances the public benefits of TVA lands with TVA's responsibility as a steward of the Valley's natural resources.
- The TVA Board renewed the charter of the Regional Resource Stewardship Council for an additional two years. The council was created in 2000 to provide stakeholder input on TVA's stewardship of the Valley's natural resources.
- TVA and two conservation agencies released an additional 1,000 lake sturgeon into the French Broad River at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge. TVA and conservation partners have released more than 46,000 lake sturgeon into rivers near Knoxville since 1998.

- After extensive review and a request by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, TVA adjusted operations at Bear Creek and Wilson dams in Alabama and Tims Ford Dam in Tennessee to protect sensitive species.
- The first phase of the Raccoon Mountain Trail System opened with four miles of new hiking and mountain-biking trails on the Raccoon Mountain reservation.
- More than 3,500 citizen volunteers helped TVA's seven watershed teams collect almost 146 tons of trash and debris from reservoirs and streams in the Tennessee Valley.
- Middle Tennessee State University completed its bulk purchase of 55,000 Green Power Switch® blocks funded by fees that students approved in 2006. The blocks account for 10 percent of the university's energy, making MTSU the largest consumer of green power in the state and the second largest in the region.