

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

# Section 3 Progress Report Executive Order 13287

SEPTEMBER 2017





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# I. Introduction

## History of TVA

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) defines itself as a federal corporation. It is proud to be the nation's largest public power company as well as a regional development agency. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the TVA Act on May 18, 1933, to provide flood control, navigation, and affordable electricity to the people of the Tennessee Valley. It was FDR's vision that, by providing these measures, the quality of life in the region would improve. While one of FDR's many alphabet agencies during the New Deal, TVA is one of the few remaining vestiges of that broad government program.

Besides operating coal-fired plants, nuclear plants, dams, and recreation areas throughout Tennessee and parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Virginia, TVA also manages the Tennessee River for flood control, navigation, recreation, and water quality. TVA's goals in the twenty-first century are to supply low-cost reliable power, to support a thriving river system, and to stimulate economic growth in the Tennessee Valley. TVA receives no tax payer dollars or receives any profits. While TVA is a modern organization that generates prosperity in the Valley and improves the quality of life in the Valley, it is interesting that its current goals and

values reflect its original mission:

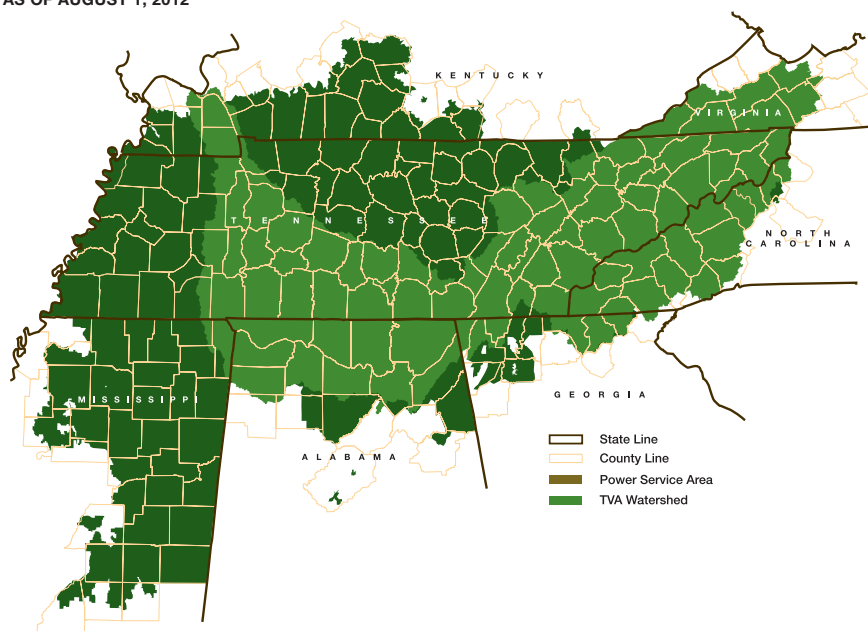
*"To improve the navigability and to provide for the flood control of the Tennessee River; to provide for reforestation and the proper use of marginal lands in the Tennessee Valley; to provide for the agricultural and industrial development of said Valley; to provide for the national defense by the creation of a corporation for the operation of Government properties at and near Muscle Shoals in the State of Alabama, and for other purposes."*

It is within this broad framework that TVA's cultural staff works to manage the agency's historic properties.

## Update on Natural Resource Plan

TVA manages approximately 293,000 acres of above reservoir land and 470,000 acres of inundated land. TVA completed a Natural Resource Plan (NRP) in 2011 to provide the agency with an integrated management approach of both natural and cultural resources on these lands. Nine cultural resource management programs were established under the NRP that help TVA meet its obligations under the numerous laws and regulations to protect and manage historic properties. One of these programs, Preserve America, was combined with the agency Preservation Program. The eight remaining functional programs include:

**TVA Power Service and Watershed Areas**  
AS OF AUGUST 1, 2012



### Power Service Area

- 80,000 square miles
- 9 million residents
- 196 counties

### Watershed Area

- 41,000 square miles
- 126 counties
- 293,000 acres of public land
- 11,000 miles of shoreline
- 650,000 acres of reservoir water surface

### **Preservation Program**

As a requirement under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), TVA's Preservation Program deals with the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places. This program also includes responsibilities under Executive Order 13287 (Preserve America).

### **Section 106 Compliance**

While compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA was a major component to the agency's Preservation Program, this function was given its own program status due to the large number of Section 106 Compliance projects completed by the agency each year. TVA's Section 106 Compliance staff works to ensure that the agency meets its NHPA obligations, and is consulting with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), SHPOs and Tribes to develop a program alternative to further address TVA's Section 106 compliance.

### **Archaeological Site Monitoring and Protection**

The Monitoring and Protection program focuses on the collection of site data for previously identified archaeological sites and prioritization of those with the greatest need for protection. Protection methods can include signage, gating, shoreline stabilization, vegetation management, monitoring, or other management activities to reduce impacts to these resources.

### **Archaeological Resource Protection Act Enforcement**

The Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) Enforcement program focuses on the protection of archaeological sites through the application of criminal and civil processes identified in the Act. TVA's criminal investigation team monitors archaeological sites on a regular basis and works with the valley's U.S. Attorneys to prosecute individuals who violate prohibited acts under ARPA. Additionally, TVA uses the civil process to address other violations including land encroachments and permit violations which impact archaeological resources.

### **Native American Consultation**

TVA's Native American Liaison coordinates tribal consultation efforts with federally recognized tribes with an interest in the Tennessee Valley. TVA participates in regular consultation workshops,

meetings, and telecoms to coordinate both stewardship efforts and projects pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA.

### **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation**

TVA's Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) program ensures the agency's compliance with the Act through the maintenance of its NAGPRA inventory, completing Notices of Inventory, and coordinating the disposition and repatriation process for human remains, associated funerary objects, and objects of cultural patrimony found on TVA lands.

### **Archaeological Outreach (Thousand Eyes)**

TVA's Thousand Eyes outreach program promotes awareness of archaeological protection in the Tennessee Valley. These efforts have included over 60 outreach events in the last three years. In 2015, the agency piloted a volunteer site stewardship program to train members of the community to assist TVA in monitoring and protection of archaeological sites on its lands.

### **Corporate History**

TVA's Corporate History Program highlights TVA's historic significance through the maintenance of a TVA Timeline, website and outreach program. TVA also receives hundreds of requests each year for historical information.

### **Update on the Cultural Resource Management Plan**

The development of the Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) continues to be on hold as staff compiles and loads many decades worth of cultural resource data into its Integrated Cultural Database (ICD). Since the primary purpose for the CRMP is to establish long term management goals for historic properties and other cultural resources managed by the agency, the effectiveness of this document would be far less without an accurate baseline including survey data. The initial timeframe for the completion of this CRMP was August, 2014. However, to prioritize and ensure thorough data incorporation into the ICD, TVA plans to extend the completion date of the CRMP and will provide an update in 2020 Section 3 Progress Report.



## II. Identifying Historic Properties

### Preservation Program - Updates Since 2014

As a part of its Preservation Program, TVA is responsible for the identification of historic properties on its fee-owned lands. TVA has recorded over 11,500 recorded archaeological sites and inventoried 380 buildings and structures under its management; evaluating their NRHP eligibility.

TVA's goal for its archaeological inventory is to perform identification surveys on approximately 1000 acres annually. In many cases this includes re-survey of parcels where modern survey standards have not been previously applied. Since 2014, TVA surveyed 4,075 acres to identify archaeological sites.

Until a seamless up-to-date, valleywide GIS layer can be produced in the ICD, TVA is unable to make an accurate estimate on how much of its archaeological inventory has been completed. Once complete, the database will allow staff to compile data on acreage surveyed as well as level of survey coverage (i.e., reconnaissance level, systematic Phase I survey with shovel testing, etc.). Until that time, estimates are highly inaccurate. This limits our ability to fully report our progress, but feel confident that our database development efforts will prove to be highly useful in future reports.

TVA has completed a number of successful projects under its Preservation Program. Some highlights include:

### Built For the People History Campaign

The Built for the People campaign is a multi-year celebration highlighting the development of TVA's hydroelectric system. This system of 25 dams built by TVA is the tangible symbol of the agency's mission of service to improve life in the Valley. A variety of activities important to Preserve America have occurred under this campaign including hosting events, highlighting the agency's history, and nominating our historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).



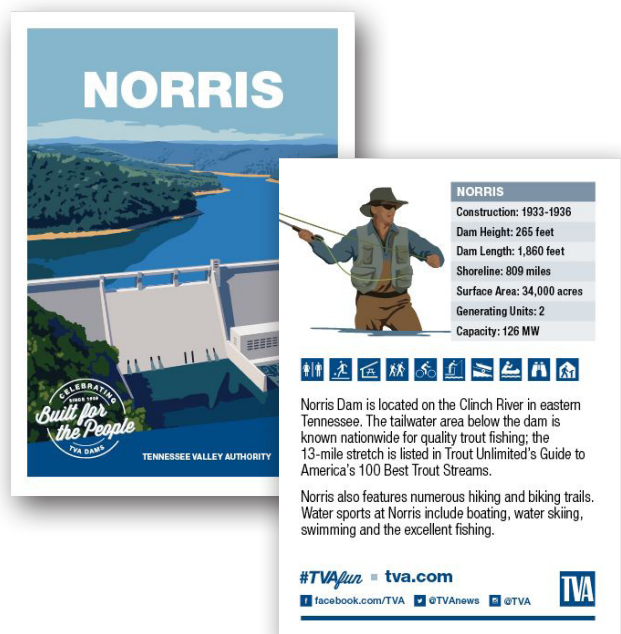
### Evaluation and nomination of TVA Hydroelectric System

TVA contracted with Thomason and Associates in April, 2015 to conduct an evaluation of TVA's hydroelectric system. This study confirmed that TVA's dams and associated structures were eligible for listing in the NRHP. TVA structures are eligible due to their association with broad patterns of national history as well as their engineering and architectural importance. These facilities are historically significant at a state, regional, and national level.

The Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled Historic Resources of the Tennessee Valley Authority, Hydroelectric Projects, 1933 – 1979 was accepted by the NPS in April, 2016. Also in that year, the Norris, Wheeler, and Guntersville Hydroelectric Projects were listed in the NRHP. Currently we have nominated twenty-two remaining hydro facilities to the NRHP. They are currently being evaluated by the Keeper. It is our hope that by the end of 2017, all of the major dams built by TVA will be listed in the NRHP.

### TVA Dam Trading Cards

In FY17, TVA developed a series of trading cards that are used to promote the history of our dams. We are planning on doing multiple series of trading cards.



### Celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Norris Dam

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was created in 1933 to improve the quality of life of the people of the Tennessee Valley through flood control, improved navigation and the provision of affordable electricity. Our system of locks and dams is the tangible symbol of the agency's mission of service to improve life in the Valley.

As part of the Built for the People campaign, TVA had an opportunity to highlight a major milestone for the first dam TVA built, Norris, located in east Tennessee. Agency staff hosted a family friendly celebration highlighting the anniversary of 80 continuous years of operation of this magnificent structure. The 2016 event kicked off on the evening of July 28 with a dinner in the historic powerhouse for honored guests, customers, and elected officials.

The public celebration, held on July 29 – 30, featured a rare opportunity for the public to tour the Norris Dam Powerhouse. They were greeted in the Reception Room which has a mural that was uncovered during the preparation for this event. The public then moved through the powerhouse, viewing the generators and passing by the control room. They were allowed on the wing wall to view the massive spillway of Norris. Also as part of this event, there were over 20 tents of activities—including 8 featuring children's activities—for the public to learn more about TVA. The history tent allowed the story of a worker to be told. The event allowed TVA to connect directly with the community and tell the story of its past and present through multiple activities.

On Saturday morning, TVA partnered with the Knoxville Track Club to host "The Big Dam Race" which was an 8.0 km race across the top of Norris Dam.

The target audiences were members of the general public served by TVA, TVA customers including local power distributors and TVA employees and retirees. The event targeted a cross section of the public from baby boomers whose parents or grandparents helped built the dam to younger people and children not as familiar with TVA's history.

We also had a number of partners from the community that helped to make this event a success: the Museum of Appalachia, Anderson County Emergency Management Services, Anderson County Sheriff's Department, First Utility District of Knox County, Norris Dam State Park, Knoxville Track Club, and local NBC-affiliate WBIR.

TVA enjoyed a great deal of publicity prior and during the event. WBIR contributed a documentary entitled "For the Greater Good" that aired on Thursday night, July 28th. They advertised their special, but they also advertised our event at Live at Five at Four and on other shows. We had spots on local talk shows--Hallerin Hill, WUOT, WDVX mentioned TVA on what's coming up,

local papers did great stories, and we printed flyers and distributed them locally. This media generated a huge turnout—over 30,000 people visited Norris Dam that weekend and learned about TVA's history.



"The Big Dam Race" Norris Dam 80th Celebration, July 2016

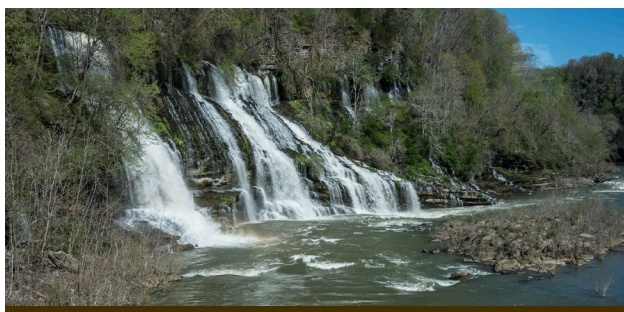


### Great Falls Dam Centennial Celebration

Following on the heels of our Norris Dam event, we had another dam reaching a milestone. Great Falls had 100 years of continuous operation in January, 2017. TVA acquired this dam in 1939. Concerns regarding inclement weather in January pushed a public celebration to early spring. In order for the dam to be seen from the power house, it was imperative that the event occur before leaves sprout on the trees. Therefore, staff proposed to acknowledge this milestone event in early April by offering tours of the power house to the public.

TVA partnered with Rock Island State Park in south central Tennessee, and on Saturday, April 8, 2017, TVA hosted a public event allowing tours of the powerhouse. The state park, through their online system, registered members of the public. Buses transported visitors from the Beach Area Pavilion at Rock Island State Park to the Great Falls Powerhouse in groups of 24.

Nine tents were set-up to promote TVA's mission of service. We highlighted our history as well as our efforts at providing affordable electricity, being good stewards of the environment and bringing good-paying jobs to the region.



Great Falls Dam 100th Celebration

### Continued Use of Non-Invasive Technology

Since 2014 TVA has conducted several non-invasive archaeological investigations to identify and evaluate deposits from archaeological sites previously thought to be inundated or excavated.

TVA continues to utilize non-invasive geophysical technology to help evaluate archaeological sites on its fee-owned lands. Since 2014 TVA has conducted investigations on Hiwassee Island (40MG31 in Meigs County, TN), Ledford Island (40BY—in Bradley County, TN) and Long Island (40RE17, 40RE146, 40RE147, 40RE148, 40RE245, 40RE246, 40RE247, 40RE248, 40RE249, 40RE250, 40RE296, 40RE297, and 40RE301). These islands were subject to substantial excavations in the early part of the 20th century and TVA was not fully aware of the extent of deposits remaining at each of the sites. Data collected helps to support TVA's hypothesis that archaeological sites excavated during the 1930s Works Progress Administration (WPA) initiatives maintain a great deal more archaeological integrity than originally thought. In the case of Long Island, TVA was able to compile data in the resulting geophysical report from the 1930s excavations that had not previously been published (resulting report from excavations conducted on Watts Bar Reservoir were halted due to the war and a report was never completed).



TVA and Tribal trainees learning about geophysical survey techniques



### Evaluation Efforts With Tribal Partnerships

TVA continues to improve on its tribal consultation efforts by including tribal involvement in all aspects of its stewardship of archaeological sites. In 2015, TVA hosted geophysical field training at Hiwassee Island (see previous section for more details on this project) for both federal archaeologists and tribal representatives. The training was free and participants came from three tribes and one federal agency.

The results of the Hiwassee Island geophysical survey was so exciting, TVA initiated another project in FY17 to conduct limited ground truth testing of the identified features. TVA provided training opportunities for non-archaeologist tribal representatives as part of the excavations. Similar projects are planned for future years to both learn more about significant TVA archaeological sites and continue to develop strong partnerships with federally recognized tribes.



TVA and New South staff working with Tribal trainees and TVA volunteer site stewards at Hiwassee Island test excavations.



Participants in the Hiwassee Island field school training week.



# III. Protecting Our Heritage

## Archaeological Site Protection Efforts

Archaeological sites on TVA land are largely located adjacent to the reservoirs and river system managed by the agency and are therefore subject to erosion activity as a result of reservoir operations and boat traffic. Since the majority of TVA's sites are located in this type of setting, the primary method for site protection is the placement of riprap along the shoreline to stabilize erosion. This management practice also helps protect the resource from unauthorized excavation and artifact removal which commonly occurs along eroded shorelines. Other methods of protection include signage, fencing, and placement of gates in cave entrances.

Since the 2014 Section 3 Report, TVA has protected over 19,000 linear feet of shoreline including 26 archaeological sites. TVA continues to place signage at access points (launching ramps, trail heads, etc.) seeking the public's support in protecting archaeological resources, while warning them of the penalties associated with violation of the ARPA. Signs have also been placed at known archaeological sites warning the public that damage to the site or removal of artifacts may result in criminal or civil penalties.

## Archaeological Monitoring

TVA began implementing an annual monitoring program in 2015. While the initial NRP metric was set for 150-250 miles of shoreline to be monitored, it became apparent following implementation that this was not the most effective metric for this program.

Since 2015, monitoring has been conducted on three reservoirs with around 40-50 sites evaluated each year. Data collected from the monitoring activity is entered into the database and used to prioritize stabilization and ARPA enforcement efforts.

While limited in scope, this initiative has been very effective for informing cultural staff about conditions of archaeological sites on TVA lands. Areas with the highest potential for looting, erosion and potential for sensitive features, such as burials, are considered for inclusion into TVA's volunteer site stewardship program (see below) and for future site stabilization.

## ARPA Enforcement

The ARPA enforcement program focuses on reducing the destruction and removal of archaeological artifacts from protected archaeological sites on TVA land through the criminal prosecution process outlined in the Act. Archaeological sites on TVA land have continually been vulnerable to looting activity given their close proximity to the water and remote location. TVA's ARPA Investigations Team patrols and monitors archaeological sites across the Tennessee Valley. TVA continues to employ police investigators devoted to ARPA enforcement and has had numerous misdemeanor criminal prosecutions for violations under ARPA, as well as Theft of Government Property. TVA has continued its effort to expand partnerships with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to protect resources that are affected by this unauthorized activity.

In addition, TVA worked with the United States Attorneys in North Alabama and East Tennessee in a joint investigation with the National Park Service to prosecute five individuals looting Civil War artifacts from TVA and NPS lands (see inset).

### ARPA Civil War Case Highlight

Following a joint agency investigation involving TVA, National Park Service (NPS) and other federal and state agencies four individuals pled guilty to multiple counts of violating the ARPA, including violations in the Eastern District of Tennessee, Northern District of Alabama and Western District of Tennessee. From September, 2007 to July, 2011, these individuals excavated Civil War era artifacts from the bottom of Fort McCook, also known as Battle Creek, located on TVA property. Specifically, these individuals recovered Civil War Hotchkiss shells, pieces of artillery used during the Civil War. None of the individuals involved in the violation had permits as required under the ARPA nor did they have authority from TVA or any other entity to excavate artifacts from Battle Creek.

In addition to Battle Creek, two of the individuals excavated Civil War era U-rails from public lands in Bridgeport, Alabama and transported and delivered a counterfeit “Sherman Bow-Tie” that was made from Civil War era U-rails excavated without permission or authorization.

One of the four individuals also excavated Civil War era artifacts from Shiloh National Military Park, including a .57 cal. three-ring rifle bullet; five fired three-ring rifle bullets and Schenkl artillery shell fragments with no permit or authorization from the National Park Service.

Three of these individuals pled guilty to misdemeanor charges and ordered to pay \$11,000 in restitution to TVA. The other two individuals were sentenced on July 30, 2015 to serve 30 months in federal prison. One was ordered to pay \$22,463.59 in restitution to TVA and the NPS to cover the cost of restoration and repair to the sites. The second was ordered to pay \$21,619.59 in restitution to the TVA. Upon their release from prison, each will serve a one-year term of supervised release.



Civil War era artifacts from Fort McCook recovered from suspect's home.

### Section 106 Compliance

As a Federal Agency, TVA is charged with the responsibility of identifying and protecting historic properties both on and off TVA land when an action requires TVA involvement. Since the 2014 report, TVA's Cultural Resource staff has reviewed over 4,000 federal undertakings for effects on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA. These undertakings ranged from 26a permits for private floating docks to construction of new emission control equipment at our coal plants.

### A Thousand Eyes Outreach Program

TVA's archaeological outreach is conducted through its Thousand Eyes program, which was established in 2003. As part of the NRP, TVA committed to host 5-10 outreach events each year and TVA has been successful at reaching this goal since the NRP's enactment. In the last three years, TVA has conducted over 60 outreach events throughout the Valley. These events include classroom activities, festivals, public speaking engagements, and other venues where TVA staff shares the importance of protecting archaeological sites with local communities.



### Volunteer Site Stewardship Program

In 2015, TVA initiated its much anticipated Thousand Eyes Archaeological Site Stewardship Program developed to solicit volunteers to receive formal training in monitoring select archaeological sites on TVA land. The training was developed as an integrated program taught by archaeologists, tribal representatives, law enforcement officers, and TVA's historian. Before acceptance into the program, participants must pass a background check and complete a full day of classroom training followed by a half-day of field exercises.

The pilot for this program was held in Guntersville, Alabama with four participants. Three additional trainings have been held subsequently in Gray, TN, Muscle Shoals, AL, and Chattanooga, TN, with a total of 30 volunteers working for the agency. While implementation of the program has been slow and often difficult to manage for TVA's limited staff, the outcome has been very successful and continues to be popular within the public. TVA plans to continue these efforts by hosting at least one workshop in the Tennessee Valley annually.



Pilot volunteer program participants at Painted Bluff in Marshall County, Alabama



Participants and TVA staff at TVA's second volunteer training in Johnson City, Tennessee.

### John Knox Center – Native Ways Camp

Camp John Knox located in Roane County, TN is an organization that offers retreats, camps, environmental education, and other similar types of programming to the communities in East Tennessee. Every year the camp hosts a Native Ways camp to educate young participants on Native American culture and archaeology. In fiscal year 2015, TVA worked with the camp to update training material for this program to reflect stewardship and protection initiatives for archaeological resources in the region. Several significant archaeological sites are located on both private and TVA land within the bounds of the camp

and TVA hopes to continue this partnership to protect these resources.

In addition, TVA sponsored a geophysical survey of the camp during the Native Ways camp allowing participants to assist in the survey and learn non-invasive techniques to identify archaeological features.

In 2017, TVA provided the camp with education signage to be placed on their property to educate future campers and visitors about resources found in the area and how to ensure their long term protection.



Archaeologists from New South work with Native Ways Camp students





### University of Tennessee Archaeological Research Laboratory's Archaeology Volunteer Day

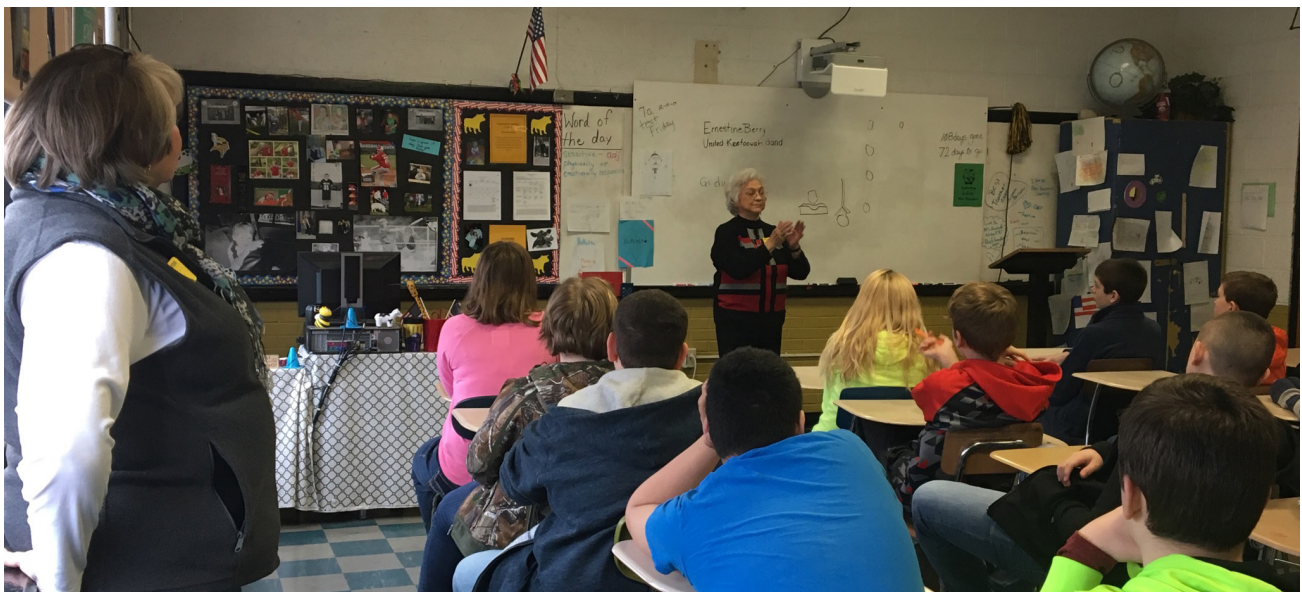
Staff from the University of Tennessee Archaeological Research Laboratory partnered with TVA to develop a volunteer program to improve archaeological collections from the TVA Normandy Reservoir excavations. Each week, volunteers would spend half a day re-bagging artifacts and would have the opportunity to listen to a brown-bag lecture from an archaeologist. TVA staff provided lectures highlighting archaeological stewardship and protection efforts in the Tennessee Valley.

### Pennington Gap

As a result of a mitigation project, TVA's cultural resources staff recently invited 370 middle school

students to visit an archaeological site in Pennington Gap, VA. While visiting the site, students had a quick lesson in archaeology, learning about stratigraphy, magnetometry, and ground penetrating radar. In addition, TVA invited Ms. Ernestine Berry, tribal historian of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma to teach the students about Cherokee culture.

Berry spoke to the students about the cultural significance of archaeological sites and how important they are to her people. "The people in my tribe have very little cultural artifacts from our ancestors because most were left behind during the migration west. It is important for us to see what our ancestors had and to share that with the young people in our tribe."



Pilot volunteer program participants at Painted Bluff in Marshall County, Alabama



Archaeologists from TVA and New South Associates talk about excavations.



# IV. Promoting Heritage Tourism Through Use

## Muscle Shoals Reservation

In 2015, TVA initiated a project to improve its recreational facilities on the Muscle Shoals Reservation in Colbert County, Alabama. Included in this project were improvements to its Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) facilities, such as improvement to the CCC pavilion's lighting and replacement of the asphalt shingled roofing with cedar shake roofing similar to its original construction. Future projects include restoration of the CCC pavilion bathroom and parking areas. It is anticipated that these improvements will increase the use of this facility with the local community.

## Warden's Residence

Located in Triana, AL, the Warden's Residence was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1941 as housing for the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge warden. Shortly after the building ceased to be used as a residence and became the local clinic for the predominately black community of Triana and the surrounding area. For many decades this clinic was the only place for this community to receive health care

and it continued to serve this purpose until 1990. After the clinic closed, the building was abandoned for many years until 2005 when the local historical society began a restoration project. Unfortunately, by that time the building was in very poor shape and needed extensive repairs. The Triana Historical Society (THS) has campaigned aggressively to acquire funding (including TVA) to restore the building to its original state. They intend to use the facility for education purposes and to bring tourism to small community located just outside the urban sprawl of Huntsville, Alabama.

Work conducted thus far has focused on stabilization of the structure's foundation in 2016 (Figure). In fiscal year 17, TVA provided additional funding for Phase III of the project which includes a new roof, doors, windows, and other structural features. TVA hopes to continue to assist in the restoration of this unique feature with such historic significance to the local community and help the town of Triana with its heritage tourism efforts.



Ms. Betty Williams, Triana Historical Society give TVA staff a tour of the 2016 stabilization work.

# V. Update on Other Cultural Resource Program Areas

## Development of an Integrated Cultural Database

As mentioned in previous Section 3 Progress Reports, TVA developed an Integrated Cultural Database as part of the NRP. The ICD consolidates multiple legacy databases and provides a graphical user interface for streamlining all TVA cultural resource activities.

## Project Milestones

By the end of 2017, TVA will have completed eight modules for data entry that include Section 106 Project Undertakings, Section 110 Survey data, Section 110 Archaeological Site Data, ARPA, NAGPRA, Site Protection, Site Monitoring, Corporate History (historic photo collection), and Reinterment Data. While improvements to these modules will continue to be made as we implement the program areas, each is fully operational for those areas within the TVA Service area where records have been entered.

## Next Steps

TVA will continue to enter legacy data in the next few years. Once all data from TVA Land has been entered, the agency will be able to better evaluate the status of its ongoing archaeological inventory work. In addition, the baseline information will support better planning and implementation of TVA's cultural resource management programs.

## Improvements to Archaeological Curation Collections

In 2014, TVA reported that it was initiating a project held at several institutions that function as the agency's primary repositories to improve archaeological collections. Because TVA has engaged in archaeological excavations since 1933, it has acquired numerous collections that are housed in curation facilities across the southeastern United States. Because many of these collections were obtained prior to the passage of 36CFR79 in 1990, the conditions of their initial storage does not meet the federal standards that were established in these regulations.

In FY2015, TVA funded curation improvement efforts at both the University of Tennessee and the University of Alabama (Figures below), both projects have continued through 2017. The University of Alabama improvements have focused on re-boxing, re-bagging, and inventorying collections to meet current standards. Efforts at the University of Tennessee have focused on the digitization of documents associated with these archaeological collections.



Before and after images of our collections improvement project at University of Alabama.



# VI. Summary and Conclusions

TVA continues to improve its Preservation Program through innovation and partnerships. Since 2014, the agency has initiated several new and highly anticipated programs (such as the Thousand Eyes Site Stewardship Program) that have enhanced our ability to better manage the significant historic properties on TVA land. In addition, TVA has increased its partnership efforts with federally recognized Indian tribes who once lived in the Tennessee Valley. These efforts have greatly advanced our ability to interpret and evaluate resources that are of great cultural significance to these tribes. Planning has already begun on new opportunities to partner with these groups in the next three year cycle.

In 2014, TVA reported that an increased emphasis had been placed on outreach and promoting the protection and conservation of both natural and cultural resources managed by the agency. This initiative continues, and staff has made significant improvements in integrating cultural resources into other resource management activities (including recreation and natural resource outreach events and signage and frequent spotlights

in both internal and external TVA communications). An increased use of social media has helped broaden our audience for sharing stories on historic preservation initiatives within the agency. While work is still needed, these efforts have been important in generating a greater appreciation for cultural resource management within the agency as well as with external stakeholders.

Development of the cultural resource management plan is still on hold while TVA completes the database. The database will greatly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of historic property management, improve reporting to external agencies.

In 2018, TVA will update its integrated Natural Resource Plan; revised metrics will be developed for each of the cultural resource programs. In addition, TVA plans to develop a process for better tracking these metrics in the future. During this process, the agency will seek input from State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribes, and the ACHP on how to improve these programs.

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