

American Fisheries Society • American Fly Fishing Trade Association •  
American Sportfishing Association • Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies •  
B.A.S.S., LLC • Berkley Conservation Institute, Pure Fishing • Congressional Sportsmen's  
Foundation • National Marine Manufacturers Association • Trout Unlimited

November 9, 2011

Anda Ray  
Senior Vice President,  
Environment & Technology and Sustainability Officer  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37902

Dear Ms. Ray:

Thank you for your timely response to our recent letter requesting that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) commit to reimburse the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) the \$835,000 in annual costs in mitigation services that the FWS provides to TVA project waterways.

Our organizations, representing millions of America's anglers, conservationists, scientists, business owners and fisheries managers, appreciate the TVA's efforts to enhance aquatic habitats and fisheries in Tennessee Valley waters, however, it is highly unlikely that these waters support self-sustaining trout populations. As you are aware, with proposed budget reductions facing the National Fish Hatchery System, the FWS will no longer be able to mitigate the negative effects of TVA water projects by stocking those waters with federal hatchery-reared fish without compensation. Without committing to reimburse the FWS the relatively small sum of \$835,000, the TVA's \$8 million annual investment in fish habitat enhancements will be for naught.

We are encouraged to learn of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the TVA is drafting with the FWS and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, which we understand is intended to address our concerns by clarifying agency roles in addressing the fishery resource needs of the Tennessee Valley. We look forward to the completion of the MOU and its resolution of funding reductions by facilitating the compensation of FWS mitigation costs.

Thank you for your efforts to resolve this situation and to protect the fisheries, recreational anglers and local economies that will be adversely impacted by the loss of fish hatchery mitigation services in the Tennessee Valley.

Sincerely,

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Cc: TVA Board of Directors  
Dan Ashe, Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service