



Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1401

Anda A. Ray
Senior Vice President
Office of Environment and Technology

October 26, 2011

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AMERICAN SPORTFISHING
ASSOCIATION

Ms. Alyssa Hausman
American Sportfishing Association
1001 North Fairfax Street, Suite 501
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Ms. Hausman:

This responds to your letter concerning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's budget for fish culture and stocking operations through their National Fish Hatchery System.

We share your understanding that the Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to reduce fiscal year 2012 funding for National Fish Hatchery operations by \$6,288,000 including approximately \$825,000 shortfall for our region's hatcheries that we understand is specific to trout. TVA had several discussions with Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Office of Management and Budget to help identify solutions to the impacts of funding cuts for hatcheries.

TVA has long supported and invested in actions to enhance aquatic health for both warm-water reservoirs and colder tailwaters downstream from hydroelectric stations. We mitigated the initial impacts of construction of the dams, and we continue to enhance the fishery resources impacted by the construction and impoundment of the reservoirs. We spent approximately \$60 million on capital improvements such as auto-venting turbines and dissolved oxygen delivery systems at our dams and constructed weirs in some of the tailwaters to improve conditions for fisheries. "Mitigation" is for fisheries loss; overall, the amount of fisheries and the positive economic impacts from the recreational fishing industry has increased as a result of TVA dams.

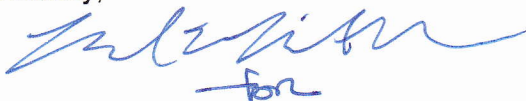
Consistent with TVA's environmental stewardship mission, we continue to be proactive by investing in activities that enhance aquatic habitats and recreation. Some of these activities are specifically targeted to support coldwater trout introduced to the tailwaters after TVA dams were built. TVA spends approximately \$8 million annually on fish habitat enhancements in dam tailwaters including providing minimum water flows, pulsing flows, foregoing electric generation, increasing dissolved oxygen, enhancing habitat and water quality, and ongoing biological monitoring to help determine the health of aquatic species, including fisheries. Since TVA receives no federal appropriations for any of these activities, the costs for these activities must be passed on to TVA ratepayers.

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We are currently drafting a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that will clarify agency roles as we work together to address the fishery resource needs of the Tennessee Valley. Closer cooperation and efficient management of fishery resources should allow for continued support of the fisheries with fewer resources.

We hope the continued funding of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hatcheries in this area can be quickly resolved. We appreciate your partnerships and support for the Tennessee Valley's fishery, and we look forward to continuing to work together to support these natural resources.

Sincerely,



Anda A. Ray

BEB:TSW

cc: Dan Ash, Director US Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240