

## **Agreement in Principle**

### **Between**

### **The Department of Energy and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency**

This is an Agreement in Principle (AIP) between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) regarding partnering and land transfer opportunities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The partnership is primarily based on TWRA's management of natural resources on the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). The land transfer opportunities are a progressive step towards enhancing the natural resources management partnership.

This agreement identifies several parcels of land that DOE intends to transfer to the TWRA, once all parties satisfy any necessary requirements. The transfer process requires approvals from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and generally takes between 12 – 36 months to complete. All property transferred must meet regulatory requirements to protect human health and the environment and provides indemnification.

DOE and TWRA agree to pursue the transfer of the following properties, each of which is described in more detail below.

1. The Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE)
2. McKinney Ridge parcel, including Blair Quarry
3. Clark Center Park
4. The Powerhouse Area parcels
5. Wildlife management area connectors and corridors

DOE and TWRA also agree to work proactively to transfer the properties and will commit to exploring opportunities for TWRA to gain access to the properties while awaiting final transfer, if desired.

### **BORCE**

The BORCE was established as a conservation easement in 2006 as part of Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) compensation from impacts to the Watts Bar Reservoir, resulting from operations on the ORR. The BORCE includes 2,966 acres and runs along the northern boundary of the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) site and the Horizon Center, as shown in Figure 1. The conservation easement continues in perpetuity. DOE granted TWRA a permanent easement to manage the BORCE and provides annual funding to support this management responsibility.

### **McKinney Ridge and Blair Quarry**

The McKinney Ridge parcel is an approximately 250-acre parcel that lies east of Blair Road and includes Blair Quarry. This area is adjacent to the BORCE and its unique geological features provide diverse recreational opportunities. If added to the BORCE, the total contiguous acreage will increase, creating greater opportunities for wildlife habitat management. It is also adjacent to the natural areas of Horizon Center.

## **Clark Center Park**

Clark Center Park is an 80-acre parcel that includes a swimming area along Melton Hill Lake, two picnic areas, a playground, restrooms, a boat ramp, sports fields, and access to the Gallaher Bend Greenway. The DOE has been actively looking for a partner to assume ownership of Clark Center Park because managing a public park is not consistent with DOE's mission. TWRA commits to maintaining the property as an educational and recreational asset for the community.

## **The Powerhouse Area**

This area formerly housed a coal-fired electrical powerhouse plant, which supported K-25 site operations. The DOE has finished environmental cleanup of this area and it is available for public use. The property includes waterfront views along the Clinch River and Poplar Creek and is divided into two parcels. The southern parcel is approximately 100 acres and the northern parcel approximately 150 acres. Public access is already allowed in the southern parcel via walking trails. The northern parcel is best suited for a wildlife management area. TWRA currently manages hunting on both parcels.

## **WMA Corridors**

These corridors provide connectivity between the multiple WMAs described above. These are areas along Poplar Creek that could be suitable for both human and wildlife corridors, as well as bike paths and foot trails. Some of the proposed corridors will be adjacent to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The total acreage of the corridors is approximately 40 acres. Environmental cleanup is nearing completion in these areas.

## **AIP**

Upon the signing of this AIP, TWRA will initiate the transfer request for the parcels and DOE will begin establishing the necessary real estate agreements to provide TWRA with near-term access, where mutually agreed upon. TWRA will propose a formal natural resource and wildlife management plan that will include a budget associated with the additional resources required to implement the plan.

Nothing in this AIP shall be interpreted to require obligation or any payment of funds in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. § 1341 or other applicable federal law.

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John "Jay" Mullis, OREM Manager

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Date

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Johnny Moore, DOE-Science Manager

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Date

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Bobby Wilson, TWRA Executive Director