National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Chesapeake & Ohio Canal
National Historical Park

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C&O Canal National Historical Park Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release
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C&O Canal invites Public to Comment on the "Extension Of The Western Maryland Rail Trail Between Pearre, Washington County, Maryland and Paw Paw, Morgan County, West Virginia" Environmental Assessment April 2012

The National Park Service (NPS) Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal NHP) is pleased to announce the availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed extension of the Western Maryland Rail Trail (WMRT) between Pearre, Washington County, Maryland and Paw Paw, Morgan County, West Virginia. The EA analyzes the potential impacts of three alternatives, including a No Action Alternative, for the proposed trail extension. Beginning April 27, 2012, the EA will be available to review in its entirety on the NPS's *Planning, Environment & Public Comment* (PEPC) website: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/choh.

The NPS will hold two public review meetings to provide interested parties an opportunity to comment on the Preferred Alternative and the EA. These meetings will be held in an "Open House" format. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. NPS and planning staff will be on hand to visit with you and answer questions. The dates, times, and locations are presented below:

May 16, 2012	May 17, 2012
6:00-8:00 p.m.	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Hancock Town Hall Building	Paw Paw School
126 West High Street	60 Pirate Circle
Hancock, MD 21750	Paw Paw, WV 25434

The C&O Canal NHP Superintendent has announced a 36-day period from April 27, 2012 to June 1, 2012 to solicit public comments on the EA. Written comments will be accepted and should be submitted through the PEPC website.

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