

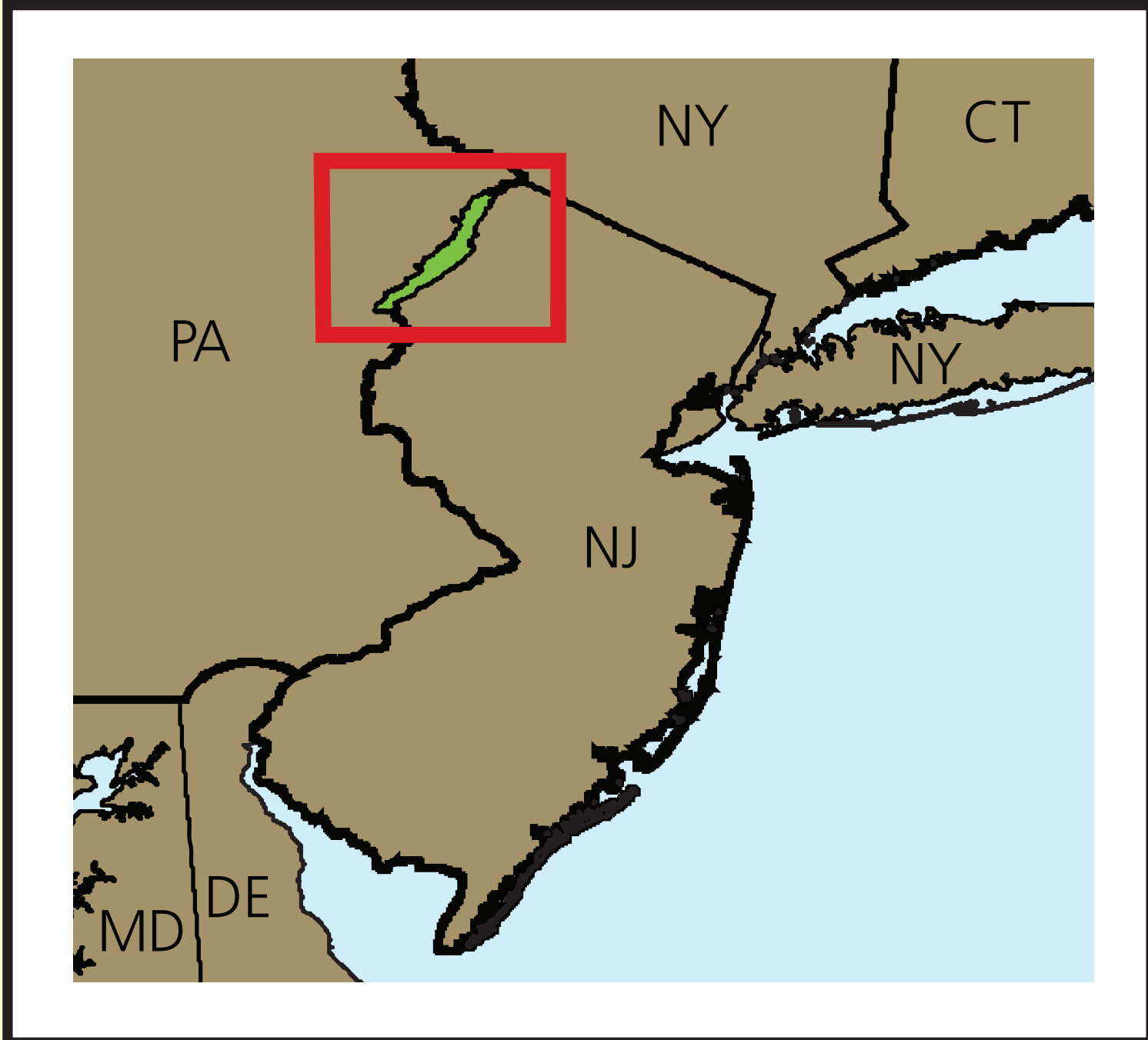
Environmental Impact Statement

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River
Appalachian National Scenic Trail

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Susquehanna to Roseland Proposed Transmission Line



East of the Study Area

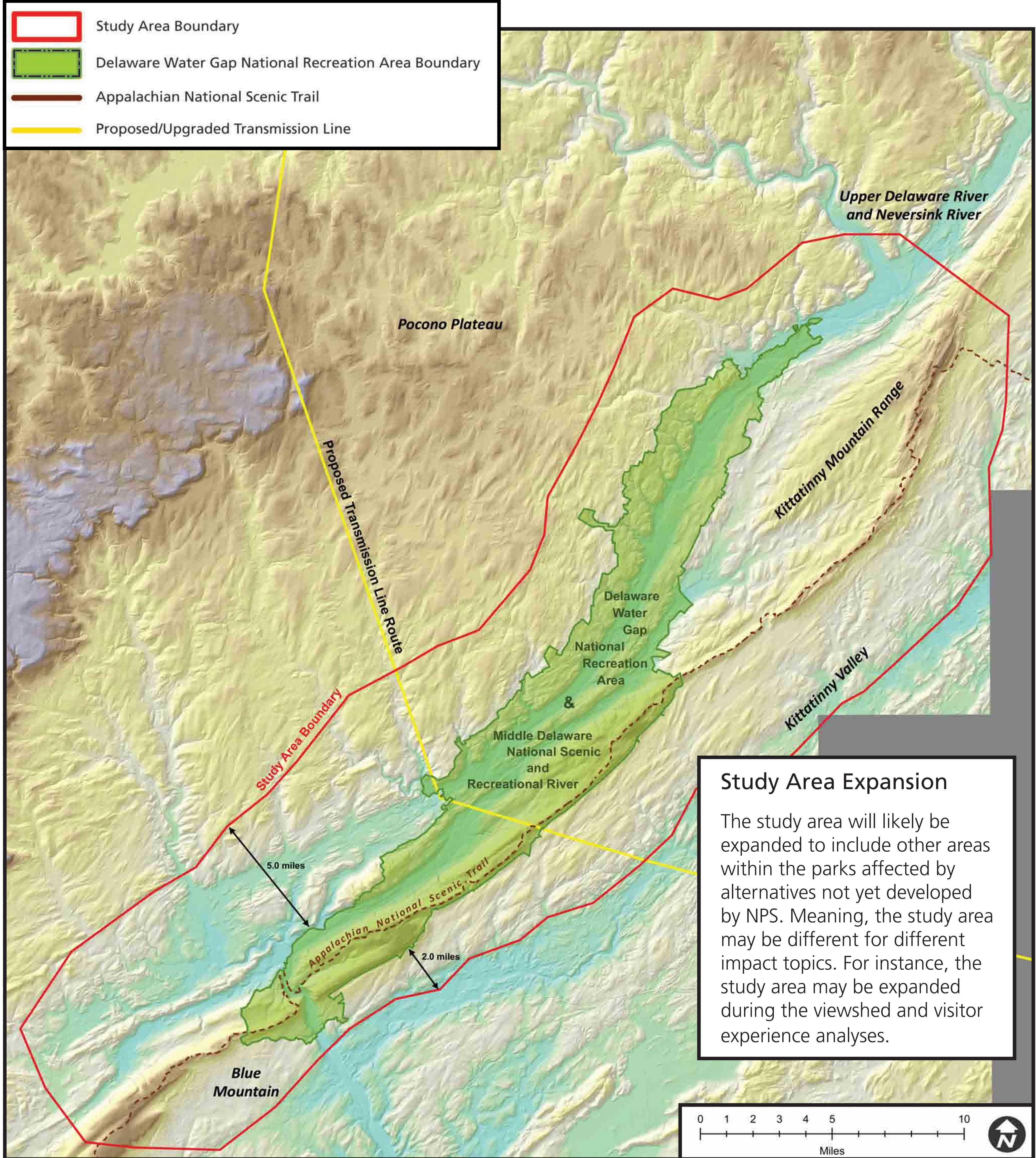
To the east the study area will be bound by the Kittatinny Valley floor where elevations range from approximately 400 to 700 feet. The Kittatinny Mountain, a broad even crested ridge ranging in elevation from 1600 to 1800 feet in elevation separates the upper Delaware River Valley above the Delaware Water Gap from the Kittatinny Valley. The western boundary is delineated by the edge of the Glaciated Low Plateau defined as rounded and low mountains at the base of escarpments of adjacent uplands (Pocono Plateau). Elevation ranges approximately 1200 to 1400 feet. The boundary to the north is the confluence of the Neversink River and the Upper Delaware. The southern boundary includes Blue Mountain.

Study Area

The study area that would be affected by the Applicants' proposal includes the 4.18-mile portion of the S-R Line proposed to traverse the parks, the expanded ROW, and the proposed access roads. The study area also includes areas within the parks affected by the other two alternatives routes considered by the Applicants in their application. The study area will be expanded to include other areas within the parks affected by alternatives not yet developed by NPS and the surrounding human environment affected directly by the NPS action.

Thus, the study area is not defined only by the boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation and Middle Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. The natural, scenic, cultural and socioeconomic resources of the parks do not end at the park boundaries; rather they are components of the regional landscape. They are continuous and as such should be taken into consideration when reviewing the Applicants' proposal.

A number of classification systems were consulted in the development of the study area boundary to help capture common, contiguous resources. These landscape classification systems and methods (examples include: Fines 1968; Litton 1972; U.S.D.A. Forest Service 1974; Robinson et al. 1976; U.S.D.A. S.C.S. 1978; U.S.D.I. B.L.M. 1980) focus on the physical and natural components of the landscape as made up of landform (topography), land cover (vegetation, built form, soil color, water, snow and paving), and atmospheric conditions. Landform can be broadly classified as hills, undulating and flat plains; and land cover as trees, ground cover, water and structures (Shang and Bishop 2000). Thus, the study area reaches beyond the parks boundaries to include adjacent geographic areas that share common physiography of the ridge and valley system within the Appalachian Ridge and Valley Province.



One Study Area Boundary for the EIS

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Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational River
Appalachian National Scenic Trail
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