

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

for Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH) Right-of-Way Applications

Appalachian National Scenic Trail  
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park  
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park  
Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail  
Monongahela National Forest  
West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



U.S. Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Baltimore District



## OBJECTIVES FOR EVALUATING PERMITS

### Biological Resources

- Avoid or minimize impacts on threatened or endangered species or their habitat. If adverse impacts are unavoidable, mitigate.
- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts on:
  - Species of special concern or their habitat
  - Migratory birds
  - Introduction and spread of invasive species
- Ensure that Monongahela National Forest Management Indicator Species habitat objectives are achieved.
- Maintain the ecological integrity and prevent degradation of rare communities.
- Protect existing land use and habitat against potential fragmentation by minimizing or otherwise mitigating adverse impacts.
- Protect existing functions and values of wetlands, floodplains, and other aquatic resources by avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating adverse effects.

### Physical Resources

- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts on geologic, paleontological, soil, and water resources.

### Cultural Resources

- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on the integrity of known or discovered cultural resources.

### Social and Economic Resources

- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts on:
  - Scenic resources and viewsheds
  - Visitor experiences
  - Recreational opportunities
  - Environmental justice
- Avoid constructing or altering park, forest, or community roads and adversely affecting surrounding land use.

### Park and Forest Operations

- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects on NPS and USFS operations, partners, and volunteer organizations.
- Protect the health and safety of employees, volunteers, and visitors during construction activities.

