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C&O Canal National Historical Park News Release

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C&O Canal NHP Issues a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Emergency Rockfall Mitigation near the Paw Paw Tunnel

Allegheny County, Md. – Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal), is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Emergency Rockfall Mitigation near the Paw Paw Tunnel. This decision document completes the initial planning and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Historic Preservation Act (NEPA).

This project addresses an unstable rock face that lies adjacent to the towpath on the downstream end of the Paw Paw Tunnel. The rock formation, which the canal and towpath cuts through in this area, is susceptible to natural the rock layers shearing off and falling on the towpath. Contractors will remove loose rock from the face of the cliff and then stabilize the remaining rock slope using a combination of pattern rock bolting, sub-surface drains, and concrete shear keys.

A portion of the Paw Paw Tunnel and towpath will be closed to all visitors during construction, which is expected to last through October. A by-pass trail around the construction has been designated for visitors utilizing the towpath through the area.

The NEPA document & FONSI can be found at

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/pawpawemergencystabil>

Information on the project, including the by-pass trail, can be found here:

<https://www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/pawpaw-closure.htm>

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