

Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Financial Assistance Award Environmental Screening Form (ESF)

General Instructions: *This ESF is intended to guide you in the process of describing your proposed project, analyzing the potential impacts of the project, and your plans to minimize and mitigate those impacts. Responses to the questions in this ESF must be supported with the data and documentation that validates those responses and must provide sufficient detail to make a final determination on the cultural and environmental impacts associated with your project. Providing sufficient detailed documentation to make that determination is the responsibility of the Gateway Chief Executive; final determination on those impacts is the responsibility of the NPS. Sections A and B may be filled out by the project Key Contact. To effectively complete sections C, D, and E may necessitate the involvement of other resource experts. Specific knowledge of the project site is essential; a site visit, by personnel with sufficient expertise and experience for the purpose of assessing potential impacts is essential. This ESF form, completed following the instructions herein, along with additional supporting documentation will constitute the statutory compliance file that is a necessary part of managing a project supported with a Gateways financial assistance award. If you have any questions about interpreting the questions or understanding the level of supporting documentation that is necessary in response, please contact NPS staff at 410-260-2478.*

A. Project Information

Gateway Name: _____

Gateway Chief Executive : _____

Project Compliance Key Contact: _____

Project Title: _____

Project Location: _____

B. Project Description *(This must be a thorough description of the proposed project, specifying all facets of work, in sufficient detail to convey the context of the project, the actions being proposed, the resources affected, and the potential impacts to those resources. This will very likely be a different project description than the one that was provided in your application—which may well have been more focused on marketing the proposal.) A thorough project description will be essential to provide to the agencies and interested parties that you will consult with so that they can make an effective determination of the potential project impacts and the necessary steps to minimize and mitigate those impacts. The project description should be accompanied by a site specific project location map and site photographs as well as any available site visit notes, consultation notes, or other relevant materials. (Please include the latitude/longitude coordinates for the site, or if available, a GIS shapefile of the project location).*

Background info attached? Yes No

Preliminary drawings attached? Yes No N/A

Is the proposal focused only on activities which are educational, informational, advisory, or consultative to other agencies, public and private entities, visitors, individuals or the general public? Yes No N/A

Is the proposal focused only on preparation and issuance of publications? Yes No N/A

Is the proposal focused only on interpretive and/or educational programs? Yes No N/A

C. Resource Effects to Consider (*Specific knowledge of the project site is essential; a site visit, by personnel with sufficient expertise and experience for the purpose of assessing the context, duration, and intensity of effects on resources is essential. The long term impacts of a completed project must be considered as well as the short term impacts associated with project implementation/construction.*)

Identify potential effects to the following resources or related activities	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Explain the basis of this determination
1. Geological resources-soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.					
2. Air quality					
3. Soundscapes					
4. Water quality or quantity					
5. Streamflow characteristics					
6. Marine or estuarine resources					
7. Floodplains or wetlands					
8. Surrounding land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use					
9. Rare or unusual vegetation-old growth timber, riparian					
10. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat					
11. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites					
12. Unique or protected wildlife or wildlife habitat					
13. Unique or protected fish or fish habitat					
14. Introduce or promote nonnative species (plant or animal)					
15. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.					
16. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources					
17. Archeological resources					
18. Prehistoric/historic structures					
19. Cultural landscapes					
20. Ethnographic resources					
21. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)					
22. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure					
23. Minority and low-income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.					
24. Energy resources					
25. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies					
26. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability					
27. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.					
28. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity					
29. Other important environmental resources (e.g., geothermal, paleontological resources)					

Comments:

D. Mandatory Criteria

If implemented, would the proposed project:	Yes	No	Explain the basis of this determination
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?			
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?			
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E)?			
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?			
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?			
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?			
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?			
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?			
I. Violate a federal law, or state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?			
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?			
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?			
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?			

Comments:

E. Other Information *(Please answer the following questions/provide requested information.)*

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes No

Did the personnel visit the site? Yes No *(If yes, attach meeting notes or additional pages noting when site visit took place, who attended, etc.)*

Is the proposed project in an approved plan such as a management plan or implementation plan? Yes No
If so, plan name: _____

Is the project still consistent with the plan? Yes No

Does this plan have an accompanying NEPA document? Yes No

Is the environmental documentation accurate and up-to-date? Yes No

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? Yes No

Did you make a diligent effort to contact them? Yes No

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes No *(If yes, attach additional pages re: consultations, including the name, the dates, and a summary of comments from other agencies or tribal contacts.)*

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in the plan named above, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)?
 Yes No

Does the proposed project require a permit from a federal, state, or local agency to proceed? Yes No *(If so, indicate the permits that are necessary, if the application(s) have been made; attach copies of the application(s) or permit(s) issued.)*

F. Team Signatures *(Effectively completing this ESF may have necessitated the involvement of a team of personnel in addition to the Gateway Chief Executive to engage sufficient expertise and experience for the purpose of assessing potential impacts. All personnel involved with project assessment and completing this ESF should sign this form. The ESF must be signed by the Gateway Chief Executive. By signing the ESF, you affirm the following: you have either completed a site visit or are familiar with the specifics of the site; affected agencies, tribes and other parties have been consulted; and to the best of your knowledge the questions posed have been answered correctly. In all cases, data collected to make the determination must be included in the comments sections and/or attached as an appendix.)*

Gateway Chief Executive	Discipline/Field of Expertise	Date
Other Team Members	Discipline/Field of Expertise	Date

G. National Park Service Review

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Program Manager	Telephone Number	Date

Approved:

Superintendent	Telephone Number	Date