

The Western Lands Project is a non-profit, membership organization conducting research, outreach, and advocacy for responsible federal land exchange policy. We also scrutinize a broad range of projects that propose to sell, give away, or relinquish public control of public lands and any project that would privatize public land.

Western Lands first became involved in issues pertaining to the C&O National Historic Park when a land exchange was proposed to facilitate development of a Georgetown University boathouse. We were strongly opposed to that project. We believe that no new private developments should be allowed within the NHP and would oppose any development that might further erode the historical and public nature of the Park.

I have visited the Park several times. In addition to my perspective as an activist who works daily to keep public land public, there is that of someone from the other coast--to whom places such as the C&O Canal are deeply impressive and moving. The privatization of such a place, whether literal or figurative, would be a crime against the very concept of public land.

To that end, we support the low-density alternative examined in the feasibility study and would oppose the other alternatives.

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Public land is our common wealth.